

The MAGAZINE OF YOUTH AND LOVE!

Romantic Adventures

Vol. 3
JULY-AUG.

10¢

AND YOU TOLD ME YOU LOVED ME! YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER SAILOR'S SWEET-HEART!

NO...NO! DON'T LEAVE ME LIKE THIS...YOU'VE GOT TO LET ME EXPLAIN!

52 PAGES
of
REAL
ROMANCE!



AMERICAN
LITERARY
ARTS
AND
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I LEARNED HEARTBREAK--THE ANGUISH OF BITTER
TEARS--DEADLY DANGER--AND ALL BECAUSE

**"I WAS MY
MOTHER'S
RIVAL!"**



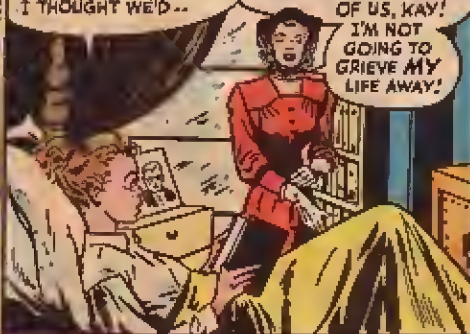
**"MY NAME'S
KAY SAUNDERS,
READER--AND MY
STORY STARTS
WHEN I WAS A
BROODING,
SENSITIVE GIRL
OF FOURTEEN!
EVEN DADDY'S
WEALTH COULDN'T
SAVE HIM FROM A
SUDDEN DEATH--
AND THERE I WAS
LEFT ALONE WITH
A MOTHER WHO
HAD ALWAYS DERIDED
MY PLAINNESS,
NEVER SEEMED
CLOSE TO ME!"**

**"SHE HAD NEVER SEEMED SO DISTANT AS THAT
NIGHT, ONLY TWO MONTHS AFTER DADDY'S DEATH..."**

**OH, MOTHER --YOU'RE NOT
GOING OUT AGAIN!
I THOUGHT WE'D...**

**YOU CAN DO ALL THE
BROODING FOR THE TWO
OF US, KAY!**

**I'M NOT
GOING TO
GRIEVE MY
LIFE AWAY!**



**AND I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE...
DON'T CALL ME MOTHER!
CALL ME FRAN-- EVEN
WHEN NOBODY ELSE
IS AROUND!**

**YES, HO--
I MEAN,
FRAN!**



"MOTHER WAS A FORMER FOLLIES GIRL, AND I'D ALWAYS BEEN AWED BY HER BEAUTY! BUT NOW--"

SHE -- SHE'S CRUEL AND HEARTLESS! OH, DADDY... NOW COULD SHE FORGET YOU SO SOON!

"A HEAVIER BLOW FELL THE NEXT MORNING..."

KAY, I'VE BEEN WORRYING ABOUT YOU! YOU'RE UNHAPPY, AND YOU'RE NOT LOOKING WELL! I'VE DECIDED TO SEND YOU AWAY -- TO A LOVELY SCHOOL I KNOW OF... IN SWITZERLAND!

BUT -- BUT, FRAN!!!

"I HELD BACK MY TEARS UNTIL I REACHED THE PRIVACY OF MY OWN ROOM! THEN..."

(SOB!) SHE -- SHE JUST WANTS TO GET RID OF ME! SHE DOESN'T WANT THOSE HORRIBLE MEN SHE GOES AROUND WITH TO KNOW SHE HAS A BIG DAUGHTER! I'M -- I'M JUST AN UNWANTED UGLY DUCKLING!

"I SPENT NEARLY FOUR YEARS IN THAT SWISS SCHOOL... FOUR LONELY, BITTER, UNHAPPY YEARS!"

POUR VOUS, MAM'SELLE!

ALWAYS THE SAME MAIL... A CHECK EVERY WEEK... NOTHING ELSE! THE OTHER GIRLS GET LONG LETTERS AND PACKAGES FROM THEIR FOLKS! BUT ME--!

"AT LAST IT WAS TIME FOR ME TO RETURN HOME!"

GOSH, KAY, AREN'T YOU THRILLED? YOU HAVEN'T SEEN YOUR MOTHER FOR YEARS!

IT -- IT SHOULD MEAN A LOT TO ME, BEE -- BUT IT DOESN'T! I'VE GOT A COLD, EMPTY FEELING!

"WAITING FOR ME AT HOME, MOTHER WASN'T VERY THRILLED, EITHER!"

SURE AND MISS KAY THAT'S RIGHT. MUST BE A BIG GIRL. MRS. NOW, MRS. SAUNDERS! O'FLANERTY! SHALL I BE FIXIN' UP HER OLD ROOM FOR HER? I SUPPOSE SHE'LL BE HOMELIER THAN EVER, POOR CHILD!

WHEN SHE WAS BORN, I WANTED SO MUCH FOR HER TO BE BEAUTIFUL! NOW PERHAPS IT'S BETTER THAT SHE ISN'T!... BUT I'LL STILL HAVE TO FIND SOME WAY OF KEEPING HER IN THE BACKGROUND! HERVEY MUSTN'T FIND OUT I HAVE AN EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER! HE --

RR-RING!

YES, YOUNG LADY,
WHAT CAN I DO
FOR ... **KAY!**

THAT'S RIGHT,
MOTHER! HAVE
I CHANGED
THAT MUCH?

I'M AFRAID ... I MEAN, I
GUESS YOU HAVE!

THIS IS GOING TO
COMPLICATE THINGS!
SHE'S **BEAUTIFUL!**
HOW AM I GOING
TO KEEP HER
HIDDEN?

"MOTHER FOUND A WAY! WHEN
I CAUGHT A SLIGHT COLD ...!"

YOU'RE REALLY IN VERY
DELICATE HEALTH, DEAR!
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO
INSIST THAT YOU GO TO
BED AT **NINE O'CLOCK**
EVERY NIGHT!

"THE PARTIES AT OUR
HOUSE WERE LAVISH AND
EXCITING... AT LEAST THEY
SOUNDED THAT WAY! ALL
I GOT OF THEM WERE THE
FRAGMENTS OF MUSIC AND
CONVERSATION THAT REACHED
MY EARS AS I LAY IN MY
BED! I WAS **STIFLING**
FOR LACK OF THE LOVE
AND ROMANCE THAT
ARE THE RIGHT OF
EVERY YOUNG GIRL!"

"AT LAST I COULD STAND IT NO LONGER! ONE NIGHT,
MOTHER GAVE A COSTUME BALL..."

THERE'S MOTHER ... SHE SAID SHE WAS
GOING TO BE **JULIET** TONIGHT! THAT
MAN WITH HER LOOKS **EXCITING!** THERE'S
SOMETHING ABOUT HIM... IT ISN'T JUST
HIS COSTUME... SOMETHING **DASHING!**
I MUST MEET
HIM!

AND I KNOW HOW TO DO
IT! ... MOTHER HAS MORE
COSTUMES THAN SHE CAN
COUNT! ... **THIS ONE**
SHOULD FIT **PERFECTLY!**

NOW TO PUT ON THIS MASK --
AND MOTHER WILL FIND THAT
TWO CAN PLAY THE
GAME OF LOVE!

I'LL BE BACK IN A
MOMENT, NERVEY!
I HAVE TO SEE
ABOUT THE
REFRESHMENTS!

THAT'S ALL
RIGHT, FRANK!
I'LL FIND
SOMETHING
TO AMUSE
MYSELF!



I COULDN'T HELP
OVERHEARING
THAT! WILL
I DO?

WHY, I -- AH -- I'M AFRAID
I DON'T KNOW **WHAT**
TO SAY!

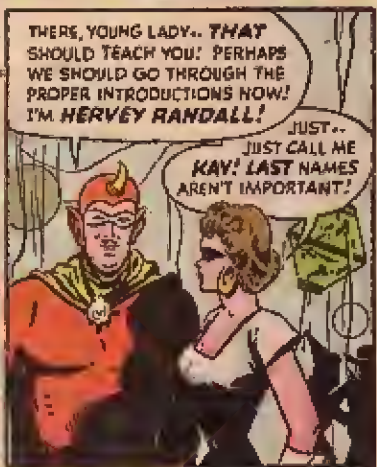


I SHOULD THINK
SATAN COULD
DO BETTER
THAN **THAT**!

I'LL TRY TO ACT MORE
IN CHARACTER FOR YOU,
MY DEAR!



I HAD
TEASED HIM INTO
IT -- BUT
HERVEY'S KISS
SWEEPED ME
SUDDENLY INTO
A UNIVERSE
OF DRIFTING
PLANETS AND
SWIRLING
STARS!

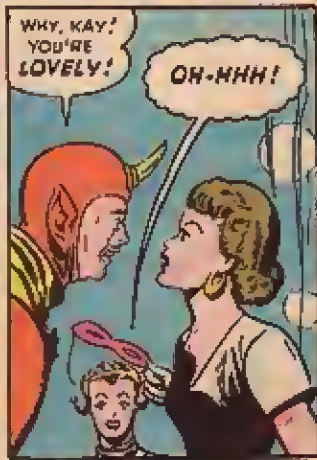


THERE, YOUNG LADY.. **THAT**
SHOULD TEACH YOU! PERHAPS
WE SHOULD GO THROUGH THE
PROPER INTRODUCTIONS NOW!
I'M **HERVEY RANDALL**!

JUST..
JUST CALL ME
KAY! LAST NAMES
AREN'T IMPORTANT!



AT THAT MOMENT...
MIDNIGHT, EVERYBODY!
OFF WITH YOUR
MASKS!



WHY, KAY!
YOU'RE
LOVELY!

OH-HHH!



DON'T GO!
I -- I'VE
GOT TO
SEE YOU
AGAIN!

I -- I'M AFRAID
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE,
HERVEY! I HAVE
TO GO NOW!
G-GOOD NIGHT!

"WILD WITH RAGE, MOTHER FOLLOWED ME!"

YOU LITTLE FOOL! I TOLD YOU TO STAY IN YOUR ROOM!

YES—BECAUSE YOU WERE AFRAID YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO HOLD NERVEY RANDALL IF HE FOUND OUT ABOUT ME! YOU DIDN'T CARE WHAT YOU WERE DOING TO MY LIFE, DID YOU?

I—AFRAID OF COMPETITION FROM YOU? YOU IMPUDENT LITTLE SNIP, YOU'LL NEVER SEE THE DAY YOU CAN TAKE A MAN AWAY FROM ME!...

NOW... GO TO BED BEFORE I SLAP YOU AGAIN!

"A MOMENT LATER, I WAS ALONE, SEETHING WITH ANGER AND HUMILIATION!"

IF SHE'S SO SURE OF HERSELF, LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I WRITE TO HERVEY AND TELL HIM I'M WILLING TO SEE HIM AGAIN! I'LL SHOW HER!

"THEN BEGAN WEEKS OF STOLEN HAPPINESS SUCH AS I'D NEVER KNOWN! I BEGAN SEEING HERVEY SECRETLY... AND GLORING IN IT! I GAVE HIM A FALSE NAME—ALWAYS ARRANGED TO MEET HIM AT SOME DISTANT POINT..."

I LOVE YOU, KAY!

"WE WENT EVERYWHERE TOGETHER! WHAT HAD FIRST BEGUN AS AN ACT OF SPITE..."

YOU'RE SO YOUNG... SO SWEET! IT'S AMAZING THAT YOU COULD LIKE ME, EVEN A LITTLE!

IT—IT'S MORE THAN JUST LIKING, HERVEY!

...SOON TOOK ON MUCH DEEPER MEANING!"

HERVEY, I—I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!

"MY MIND TOLD ME IT WAS ALL WRONG... HE WAS SO MUCH OLDER THAN I! BUT MY HEART SAID IT WAS RIGHT!"

DARLING—I HAVE A SUMMER PLACE ON AN ISLAND IN LAKE TAUNTON... I'M GIVING A HOUSE PARTY THERE OVER THE WEEK-END! PLEASE SAY YOU'LL COME!

YES, HERVEY... I'LL COME!

I SPENT THE NEXT FEW DAYS IN ROMANTIC DREAMS, COUNTING THE MOMENTS TO THE WEEK-END!

AND I WAS GLAD THAT MOTHER SPENT THOSE SAME DAYS IN MISERABLE UNHAPPINESS—WONDERING WHY SHE HAD BEEN SEEING SO LITTLE OF HERVEY!

"WE HAD SEVERAL BITTER CLASHES..."

OH, MOTHER—WHY DON'T YOU STOP HAGGING ME?

I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE—DON'T CALL ME MOTHER!



WELL, I WON'T BE AROUND TO BOTHER YOU OVER THE WEEK-END! ER—ONE OF THE GIRLS FROM SCHOOL JUST CAME IN, AND I'M GOING TO HER PLACE FOR A FEW DAYS!



THAT'S FINE!

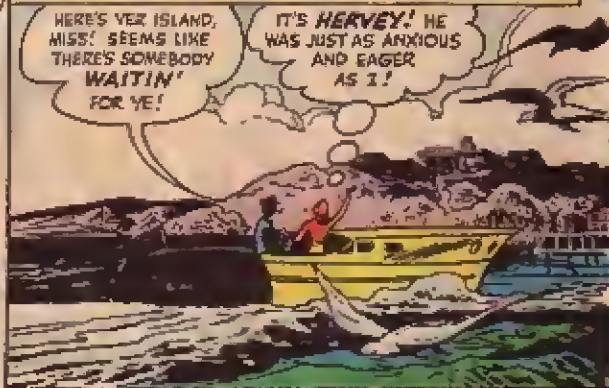
—WE SEEM TO BE GETTING ON EACH OTHER'S NERVES THESE DAYS! MAYBE IT'S A GOOD IDEA FOR US TO BE SEPARATED FOR A LITTLE WHILE! IT MIGHT HELP US BOTH THINK STRAIGHTER!



"I FELT A MOMENTARY PANG OF SYMPATHY FOR MOTHER! BUT THE THOUGHT OF THAT ALLURING WEEK-END AHEAD SPURRED ME ON! AND SO, EARLY SATURDAY MORNING..."

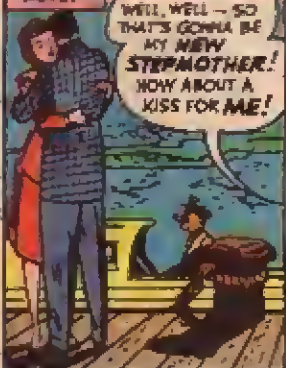
HERE'S VEZ ISLAND, MISS! SEEMS LIKE THERE'S SOMEBODY WAITIN' FOR YE!

IT'S HERVEY! HE WAS JUST AS ANXIOUS AND EAGER AS I!



I FOUND MYSELF IN HERVEY'S ARMS ONCE MORE! BUT THIS TIME, THERE WAS A JARRING NOTE!

WELL, WELL—SO THAT'S GONNA BE MY NEW STEPMOTHER! WOW ABOUT A KISS FOR ME!



KAY, THIS IS MY SON BOB! I APOLOGIZE FOR HIS BAD MANNERS!

DAD SAYS HE WANTS TO MARRY YOU! THAT MAKES YOU MY MOTHER—ALMOST—HUH?



EXCUSE ME A MOMENT, KAY! I WANT TO PREPARE FOR OUR OTHER GUESTS!

IT'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO WORK YOUR CHARMS ON ANOTHER EASY MARK!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?



DON'T PRETEND YOU AREN'T
TAKING DAD FOR A **RIDE!**
A GIRL YOUR AGE COULDN'T
BE INTERESTED IN A MAN
LIKE MY FATHER EXCEPT
FOR HIS MONEY...
HEY!

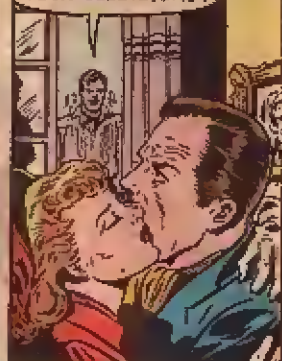
YOU -- YOU --
**I HATE
YOU!**



THE -- THE **SMART ALECK!**
DOESN'T LIKE MY CARING FOR
HIS FATHER, EH? **I'LL TEACH
HIM!** BY THE TIME HE GETS
TO THE HOUSE, **I'LL BE
IN HERVEY'S ARMS!**



IF I'M NOT **INTERRUPTING**
ANYTHING -- THINK YOU CAN
SPARE A MOMENT FOR
**ANOTHER ONE OF
YOUR GUESTS, DAD?**



"I REALIZED SUDDENLY THAT SOMEONE
ELSE HAD COME IN! IT WAS -- "

MOTHER!



WH-WHAT?!
FRAN IS YOUR
MOTHER?

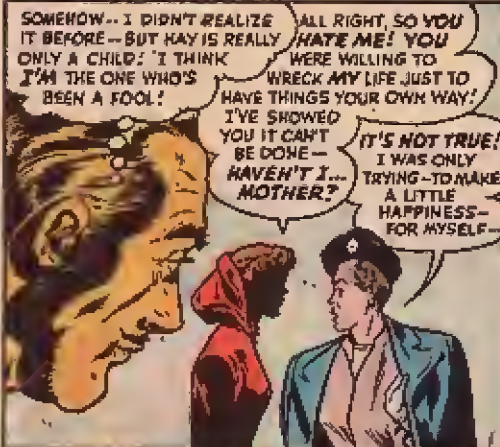
YOU FOOL! YOU
**STUPID--LITTLE--
FOOL!**



SOMEHOW -- I DIDN'T REALIZE
IT BEFORE -- BUT KAY IS REALLY
ONLY A CHILD! I THINK
I'M THE ONE WHO'S
BEEN A FOOL!

ALL RIGHT, SO YOU
HATE ME! YOU
WERE WILLING TO
WRECK MY LIFE JUST TO
HAVE THINGS YOUR OWN WAY!
I'VE SHOWED
YOU IT CAN'T
BE DONE --
**HAVEN'T I...
MOTHER?**

IT'S NOT TRUE!
I WAS ONLY
TRYING -- TO MAKE
A LITTLE
HAPPINESS --
FOR MYSELF --



I -- I MUST HAVE BEEN CRAZY
TO THINK I COULD COMPETE
WITH MY DAUGHTER'S YOUTH!
I'VE -- SOB -- MADE A MESS OF
EVERY-
THING!

I THINK
YOU'D BETTER
GO AFTER
HER, KAY!



"I WENT... UNWILLINGLY! BUT WHEN I FOUND MOTHER DEFEATED... MISERABLE..."

"I'M SORRY IT HAPPENED THIS WAY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO -"

"I LOVE HIM, KAY! I LOVE HIM SO MUCH THAT IF I LOSE HIM, I JUST (SOB!) - I JUST WANT TO DIE!"



"I REALIZED THEN, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THAT MY MOTHER, TOO, HAD KNOWN LONGELINESS AND LONGING!"

"PERHAPS MY OWN FAILURE TO UNDERSTAND HER HAD HELPED CAUSE THIS TRAGIC DUEL - MOTHER AGAINST DAUGHTER FOR THE HEART OF A MAN!"

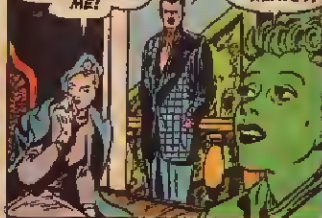
"I - I GRIEVED MUCH MORE THAN YOU REALIZED AFTER DADDY DIED, KAY! I LOVED HIM DEEPLY! BUT I VOWED NOT TO GIVE IN TO MY GRIEF... NOT TO LET MYSELF BECOME AN AGING, SELF-CENTERED, COMPLAINING WIDOW! THAT'S WHY I TRIED TO HOLD ON TO YOUTH!"



"THEN HERVEY CAME ALONG! HE'S THE ONLY OTHER MAN I'VE EVER REALLY LOVED... AND I BUILT A WHOLE NEW DREAM OF LIFE AROUND HIM! NOW - YOU'VE TAKEN HIM FROM ME!"

"I THINK I'D LIKE TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THAT!"

"HERVEY!"



"FRAN - I'VE MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE! I WAS FLATTERED THAT A YOUNG GIRL LIKE KAY COULD CARE FOR ME... BUT I KNOW NOW THAT YOU'RE THE ONE I REALLY WANT! PLEASE FORGIVE ME!"

"OH - DARLING!"



"I STUMBLED BLINDLY FROM THE ROOM, HEARTBROKEN AND UNBELIEVING!"



"WELL, ARE YOU SATISFIED NOW WITH ALL THE TROUBLE YOU'VE CAUSED? THAT'S A PRETTY ROTTEN THING TO DO - GO AGAINST YOUR OWN MOTHER! WHAT KIND OF A DAUGHTER ARE YOU?"



YOU ASK ME THAT? WHAT KIND OF A MOTHER WAS SHE BEEN? ... HAVE YOU EVER KNOWN WHAT IT MEANS TO BE BARRED FROM HAPPINESS ... SENT AWAY FROM HOME FOR YEARS... NEGLECTED... LONELY? ... WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT SUCH THINGS?



"I HAD TO GET OUT OF THAT HOUSE! I HAD TO GET AWAY FROM THAT ISLAND... AS FAR AWAY AS I COULD!"

"HAY! COME BACK HERE! THERE'S A STORM COMING UP!"

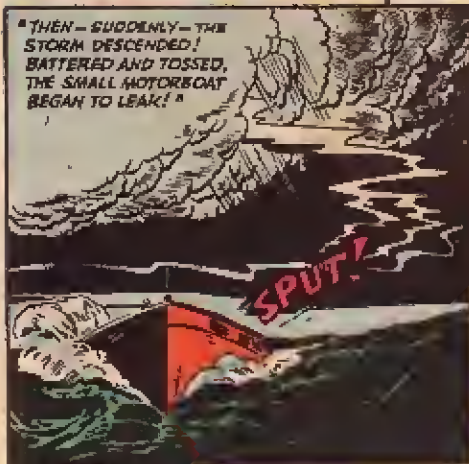


"IN A MOMENT, I WAS OUT ON THE LAKE!"

I'LL GET TO THE MAINLAND -- I NEVER WANT TO SEE ANY OF THEM AGAIN!

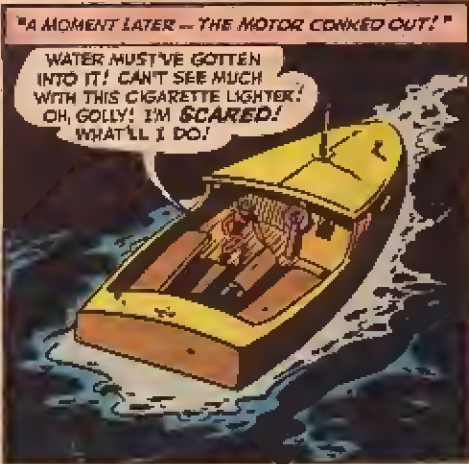


"THEN -- SUDDENLY -- THE STORM DESCENDED! BATTERED AND TOSSED, THE SMALL MOTORBOAT BEGAN TO LEAK!"



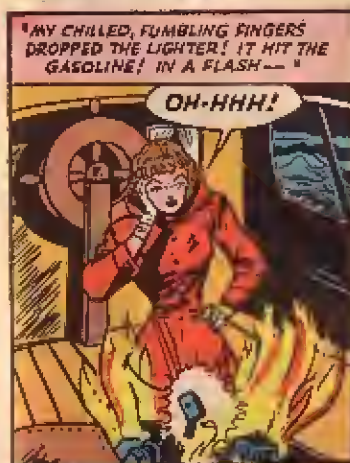
"A MOMENT LATER -- THE MOTOR CONKED OUT!"

WATER MUST'VE GOTTEN INTO IT! CAN'T SEE MUCH WITH THIS CIGARETTE LIGHTER! OH, GOLLY! I'M SCARED! WHAT'LL I DO!



"MY CHILLED, FUMBLING FINGERS DROPPED THE LIGHTER! IT HIT THE GASOLINE! IN A FLASH --"

OH-HHH!



"I WAS TRAPPED! IF I STAYED ON THE BOAT, I WOULD DIE IN THE FLAMES! AND THERE WAS NO HOPE OF SWIMMING TO SHORE IN THAT STORM! THEN -- THROUGH MY PANIC -- I HEARD THE ROAR OF ANOTHER MOTOR!"



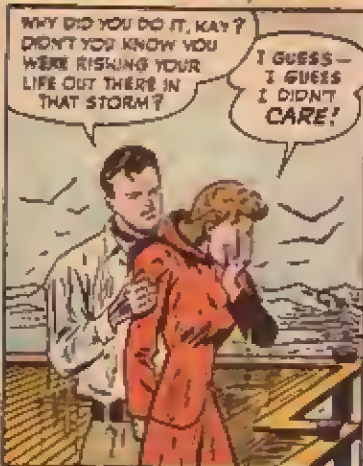


BOB!

**UH-HUH—ME!
AND WE'RE GETTING
OUT OF THIS
FURNACE
QUICK!**



**EVERYTHING'S ALL
RIGHT, KAY! YOU'RE
SAFE NOW! TAKE
IT EASY!**

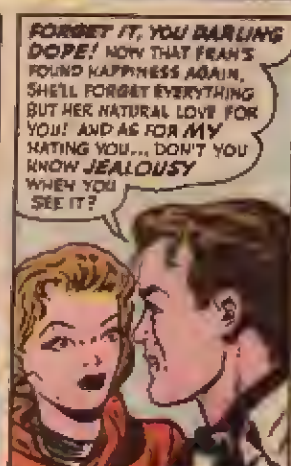


**WHY DID YOU DO IT, KAY?
DIDN'T YOU KNOW YOU
WERE RISKING YOUR
LIFE OUT THERE IN
THAT STORM?**

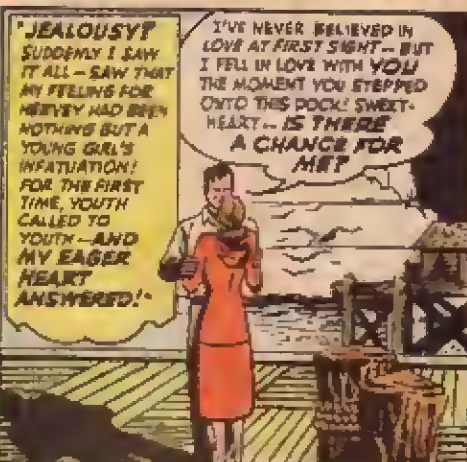
**I GUESS—
I GUESS
I DIDN'T
CARE!**



**MAYBE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN
BETTER IF YOU HADN'T
RESCUED ME! I'VE MADE A
MESS OF EVERYTHING! MY
MOTHER HATES ME... AND
YOU HATE ME, TOO!**

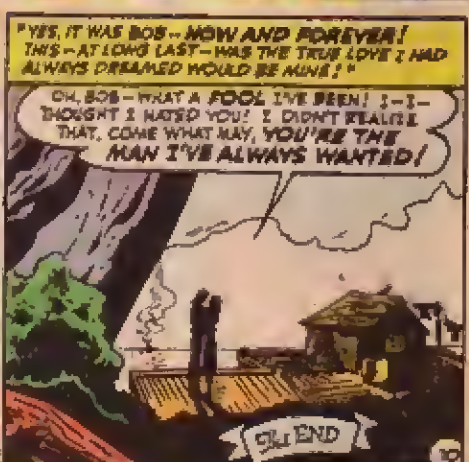


**FORGET IT, YOU DARLING
DOPE! NOW THAT FEAR'S
FOUND HAPPINESS AGAIN,
SHE'LL FORGET EVERYTHING
BUT HER NATURAL LOVE FOR
YOU! AND AS FOR MY
HATING YOU... DON'T YOU
KNOW JEALOUSY
WHEN YOU
SEE IT?**



**"JEALOUSY?
SUDDENLY I SAW
IT ALL—SAW THAT
MY FEELINGS FOR
HERVEY HAD BEEN
NOTHING BUT A
YOUNG GIRL'S
INFATUATION!
FOR THE FIRST
TIME, YOUTH
CALLED TO
YOUTH—AND
MY EAGER
HEART
ANSWERED!"**

**I'VE NEVER BELIEVED IN
LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT—BUT
I FELT IN LOVE WITH YOU
THE MOMENT YOU STEPPED
ONTO THIS ROCK! SWEET-
HEART... IS THERE
A CHANCE FOR
MET?**

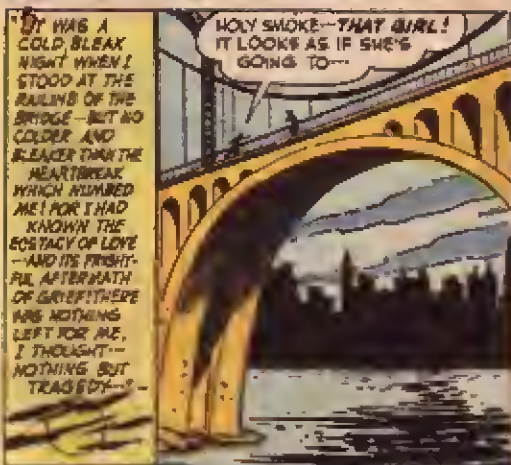
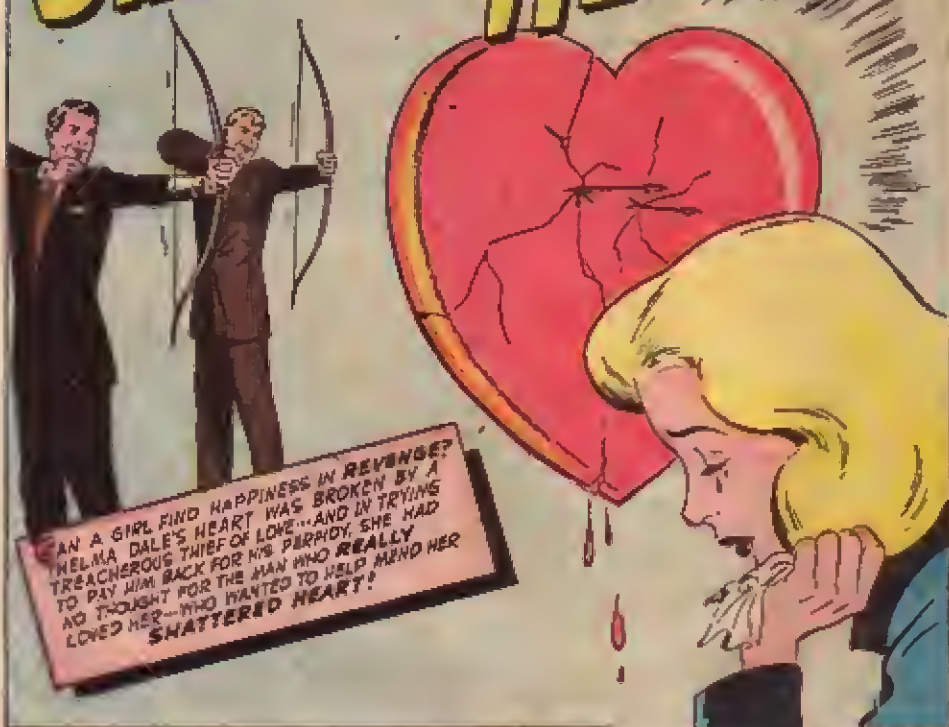


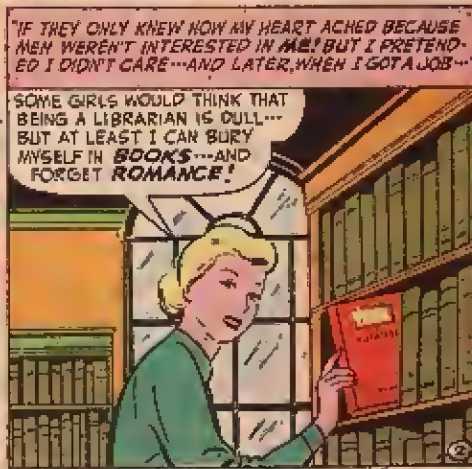
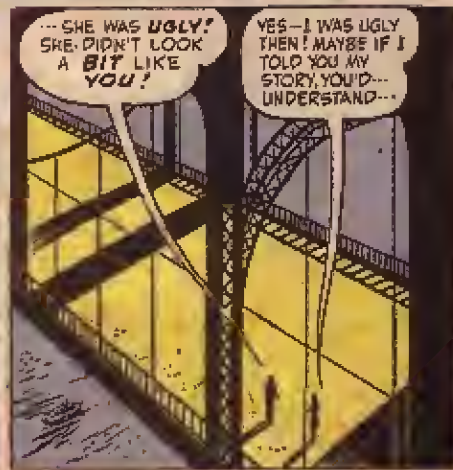
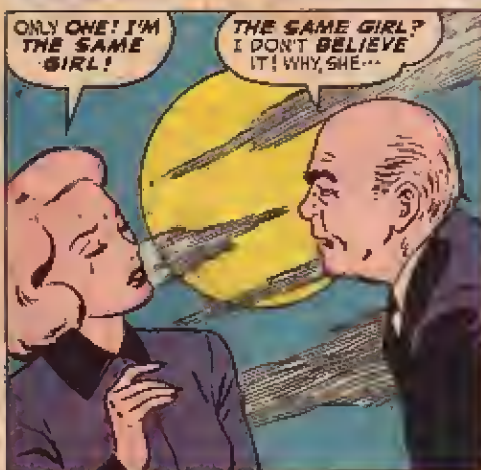
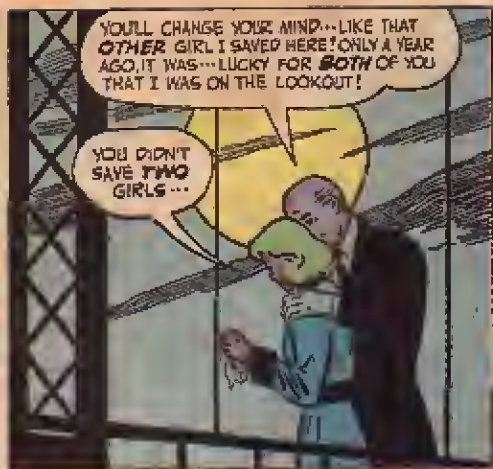
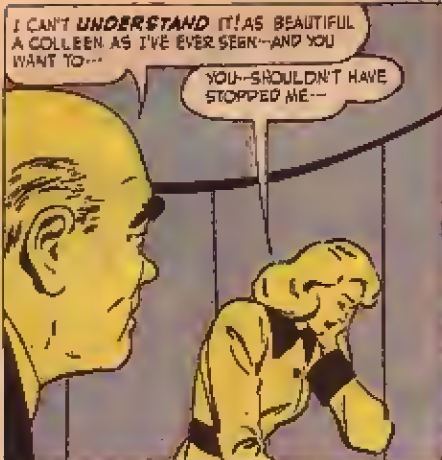
**"YES, IT WAS BOB—NOW AND FOREVER!
THIS—AT LONG LAST—WAS THE TRUE LOVE I HAD
ALWAYS DREAMED WOULD BE MINE!"**

**OH, BOB—WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN! I—
THOUGHT I HATED YOU! I DIDN'T REALIZE
THAT, COME WHAT MAY, YOU'RE THE
MAN I'VE ALWAYS WANTED!**

THE END

The SHATTERED HEART

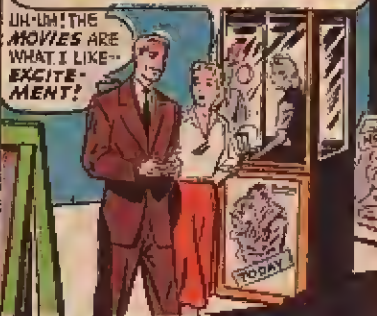




"EVEN AFTER I MEET MIKE PETERSON, MY LIFE HARDLY CHANGED! MIKE WAS SOLID AND DEPENDABLE...AND HE DIDN'T SEEM TO HOLD MY PLAINNESS AGAINST ME!"

I REALLY SHOULD HAVE GONE TO THE LECTURE AT THE LIBRARY TONIGHT, MIKE!

UH-UH! THE MOVIES ARE WHAT I LIKE-- EXCITEMENT!



GEE! DO YOU STILL THINK YOU SHOULD HAVE GONE TO THAT LECTURE, THELMA?

OF COURSE! THE HEROINES SO SILLY, IT'S A WONDER THE HERO CAN LOVE HER!

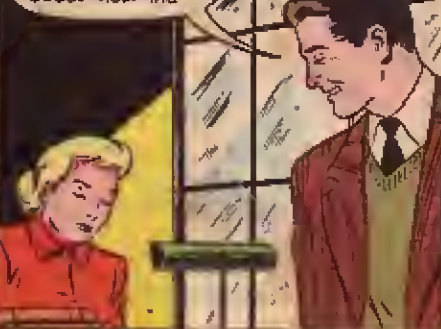


SHE'S BEAUTIFUL, TOO! SO BEAUTIFUL THAT I CAN'T IMAGINE ANY MAN RESISTING HER! BUT TO...ID RATHER BE SENSIBLE AND PLAIN!



"THEN ENTERING MY LIFE LIKE A BOMBSHELL, CAME TONY MANSFIELD...SHATTERING THE VENEER OF RESPECTABLE DULLNESS THAT COVERED ME!"

PARDON ME, MISS, BUT I WONDER IF YOU COULD HELP ME...



HE'S HANDSOME, I THOUGHT, SO HANDSOME HE MUST BE STUPID! AND THEN HE TOLD ME HIS NAME..."

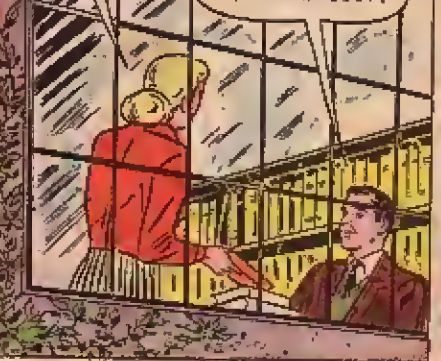
TONY MANSFIELD... WHY, YOU'RE THE FAMOUS WRITER!

I'M NOT EXACTLY FAMOUS... BUT I DO WRITE IN FACT. I'M DOING SOME RESEARCH FOR A STORY RIGHT NOW...



THESE BOOKS SHOULD HELP YOU!

THANKS VERY MUCH, MISS PALE...I'M FLOUNDERING IN A SEA OF CONFUSION--AND YOU'VE TOSSED ME A LIFEBOAT!



"HIS QUIET, SMOOTH TONES FILLED ME WITH A STRANGE EXCITEMENT...I WAS PROUD TO BE ABLE TO HELP HIM!"

SO MANY BOOKS ARE BEING PUBLISHED THAT IT'S BECOMING HARDER AND HARDER TO THINK OF NEW ADVENTURE PLOTS!

OH, BUT THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF GOOD PLOTS...



THE ANCIENT GREEK CLASSICS ARE FULL OF THEM...

WONDERFUL, MISS DALE...
WHAT A FORTUNATE THING FOR
ME THAT YOU KNOW LITERATURE!
IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET SO
INTELLIGENT A YOUNG WOMAN!
ER...CAN'T WE DISCUSS OUR
MUTUAL INTERESTS AT
DINNER?

"I KNEW THAT HE WAS A STRANGER, THAT I SHOULDN'T
HAVE ACCEPTED...BUT I COULDN'T RESIST THE TEMPTATION!
AND THAT DINNER WAS THE BEGINNING OF A
NEW, HAPPIER LIFE!"

PERHAPS WE CAN TALK OVER
SOME STORY IDEAS WHILE
WE'RE DANCING, THELMA!

LIFE TOOK ME DRIVING...TO FIRST NIGHTS AT THE THEATRE...
EVERYWHERE! I FORGOT MY LACK OF BEAUTY...THRILLED TO HIM!

"I WAS PROUD THAT HE ACCEPTED MY IDEAS.
THAT THE STORIES HE BUILT AROUND THEM
WERE SOLD! BUT SOMETIMES I'D CATCH MY
SELF THINKING STRANGE THOUGHTS..."

I WISH HE'D STOP
TALKING ABOUT STORIES
...AND TAKE ME IN
HIS ARMS AND
KISS ME!

YES, I WAS
FALLING HEAD
OVER HEELS IN
LOVE WITH TONY!
HE WAS DIFFERENT
FROM ANY ONE I
HAD EVER KNOWN...
MORE FASCINATING,
MORE GLAMOROUS!
BUT...

THAT MUST BE MIKE AGAIN
...HE DOESN'T REALIZE HOW
LITTLE HE MEANS TO ME
NOW!

RRRRRING!

SORRY, MIKE...NO MOVIE DATE
TONIGHT! SOMETHING IMPORTANT'S
COME UP...

THE FOURTH TIME IN
A ROW I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU
IN **WEEKS**, THELMA...BUT IF
YOU SAY IT'S IMPORTANT, IT'S
OKAY WITH
ME!

"MIKE STILL TRUSTED ME... HE DIDN'T REALIZE I WAS TRYING TO THRUST HIM OUT OF MY LIFE! PERHAPS I WAS CONSCIENCE-STRIKEN... PERHAPS I FELT THAT I COULD NEVER REALLY GET CLOSE TO TONY... BUT THAT EVENING..."

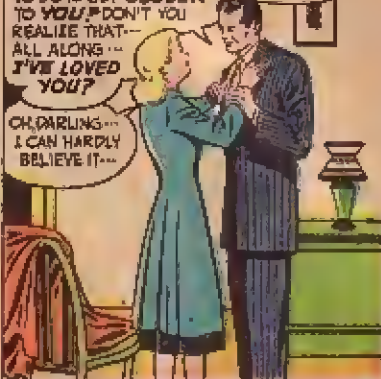
TONY, SOMETIMES I FEEL THAT YOU DON'T REALLY CARE FOR ME... ALL YOU WANT IS THE IDEAS I GIVE YOU!

THELMA, DARLING, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW YOU HURT ME WHEN YOU SAY THAT!



HOW CAN YOU THINK SUCH THINGS OF ME? DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT IN TALKING ABOUT STORIES, ALL I'VE BEEN TRYING TO DO IS GET CLOSER TO YOU? DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT... ALL ALONG... I'VE LOVED YOU?

OH, DARLING... I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT...

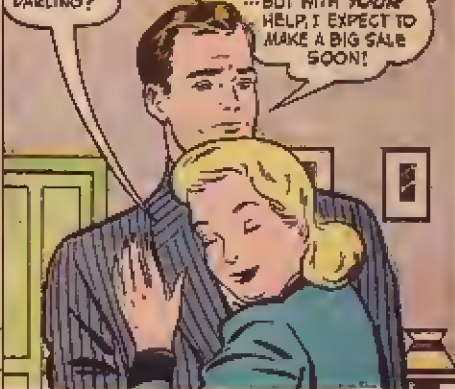


"MY HEART POUNDED WITH A MAD JOY! THIS WAS WHAT I HAD WAITED FOR THROUGHOUT MY DRAB LIFE!"



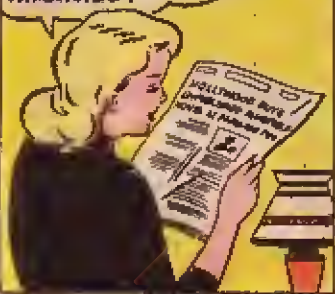
WHEN ARE WE GOING TO GET MARRIED, DARLING?

ER... NOT FOR A WHILE YET. THELMA, DEAR! I'VE HAD RATHER HEAVY EXPENSES... BUT WITH YOUR HELP, I EXPECT TO MAKE A BIG SALE SOON!



"I DIDN'T QUESTION HIM, FOR ALL I COULD THINK OF WAS TONY... TONY! AND ONE DAY, I READ GLORIOUS NEWS, AND MY HAPPINESS REACHED ITS PEAK!"

IT'S THE ONE I HELPED HIM ON! NOW THERE'S NOTHING IN THE WAY... WE CAN BE MARRIED!



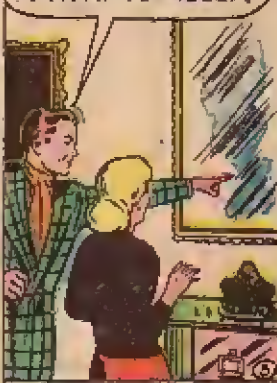
"LITTLE DID I REALIZE THAT FROM HAPPINESS TO HEARTBREAK WAS SO SHORT A STEP! THAT EVENING..."

GET MARRIED? ER... PERHAPS WE'D BETTER FORGET IT, THELMA! OUR LIVES ARE SO DIFFERENT... AFTER ALL, I'M A FAMOUS NOVELIST, AND YOU...

DON'T JOKE, TONY, DEAR... YOU SAID YOU LOVED ME...



LOVE YOU? DO YOU THINK A MAN LIKE ME COULD LOVE SOMEONE LIKE YOU? LOOK AT YOURSELF!



"I LOOKED--AND SAW THE PLAIN WOMAN WHOSE DREAM OF ROMANCE HAD BEEN SHATTERED! I COULD HARDLY HEAR MY OWN TORTURED WORDS--"

SO YOU USED ME FOR MY IDEAS, TONY-- TOYED WITH THE LIFE OF A DEFENSELESS WOMAN--

EXCELLENT, MY DEAR--I'LL INCLUDE THAT PHRASE IN MY NEXT NOVEL!



"MY WORLD TOPSY-TURVY IN A NIGHTMARE OF GRIEF, I STUMBLED OUT, SCARCELY HEARING THE CRUEL SENTENCE THAT SEALED MY FATE!"



GOODBYE, THELMA--TOO BAD YOU HAD MORE BRAIN THAN BEAUTY!



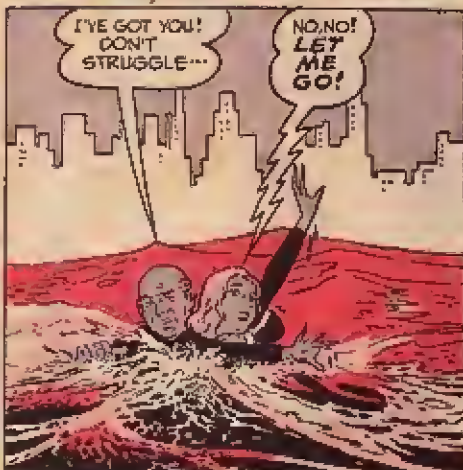
"LET WAS THEN I FELT THAT THERE WAS JUST ONE LAST REFUGE LEFT FOR ME--"

THE WATER --LIKE ICE! BUT MY HEART'S --COLDER--



I'VE GOT YOU! DON'T STRUGGLE--

NO, NO! LET ME GO!

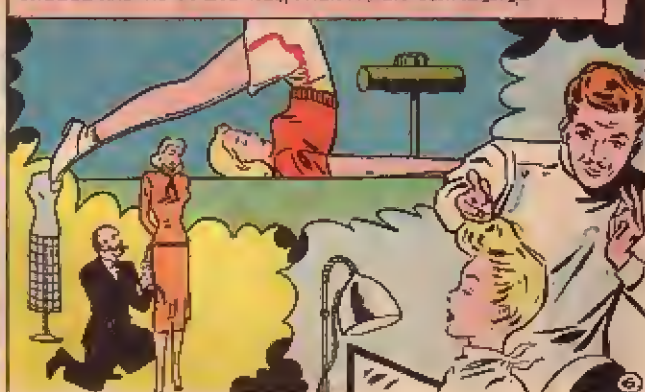


"I WAS SAVED AGAINST MY WILL-- BUT THE SHOCK HAD BROUGHT ME TO MY SENSES! LATER, I STUDIED MYSELF CAREFULLY--"

HE--HE WAS **RIGHT** ABOUT ME! BUT I WONDER--DO I HAVE TO BE LIKE THIS? COULDN'T I **CHANGE**? MY FACE ISN'T SO BAD--IF ONLY I COULD MAKE THE **MOST** OF IT!



"I TOOK THE MONEY I HAD SAVED AND INVESTED IN A SPECIAL BEAUTY COURSE! I WAS FORCED TO REDUCE, TAUGHT HOW TO CHOOSE AND WEAR CLOTHES, GIVEN A NEW CONFIDENCE--"

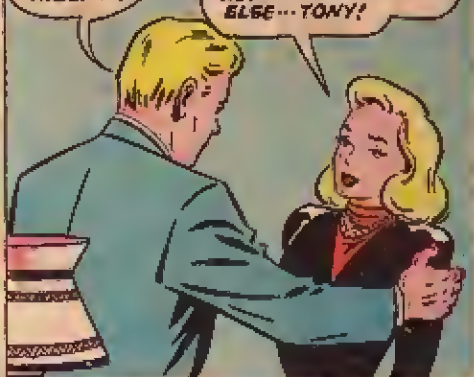


"OUT OF THIS THERE MAGICALLY EMERGED A NEW AND GLAMOROUS THELMA DALE! I TESTED MYSELF IN MY BEST MIRROR---MIKE'S FACE!"



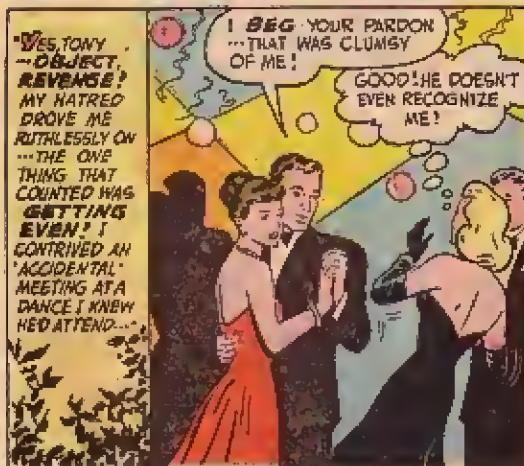
THELMA---I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S YOU! YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL---FASCINATING---

I NEVER TOLD YOU BEFORE--- I LOVE YOU, THELMA!



YOU CAN FORGET THAT, MIKE--- THIS WAS JUST A TEST FLIGHT! NOW I'M GOING TO TRY MY NEW LOOK ON SOMEONE ELSE---TONY!

"YES, TONY---OBJECT, REVENGE! MY HATRED DROVE ME RUTHLESSLY ON---THE ONE THING THAT COUNTED WAS GETTING EVEN! I CONTRIVED AN 'ACCIDENTAL' MEETING AT A DANCE I KNEW HE'D ATTEND---



I BEG YOUR PARDON---THAT WAS CLUMSY OF ME!

GOOD! HE DOESN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE ME!

BUT I'M NOT REALLY SORRY---IF IT'S GIVEN ME THE CHANCE TO MEET THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL IN THE WORLD!



YOU'RE QUITE A FLATTERER---THIS IS THE SECOND TIME YOU'VE SWEPT ME OFF MY FEET!

"TONY WAS PUZZLED---BUT WHEN I REVEALED WHO I WAS, HE STAGGERED FROM THE SHOCK!"



IT'S MAGIC---WITCHCRAFT! WHY YOU'VE TURNED INTO THE MOST ALLURING, IRRRESISTIBLE GIRL---

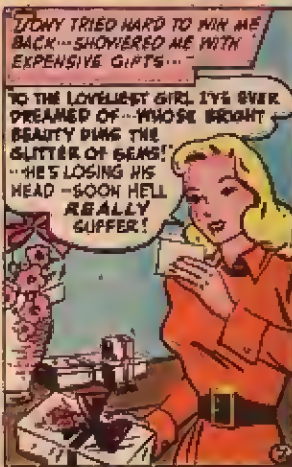
--AND I BEHAVED TO YOU LIKE THE WORLD'S WORST HEEL! PLEASE, FORGIVE ME.

THELMA---I'LL DO ANYTHING TO MAKE IT UP TO YOU!



I MIGHT FORGIVE YOU, TONY---SOME TIME---

TONY TRIED HARD TO WIN ME BACK---SHOWED ME WITH EXPENSIVE GIFTS---

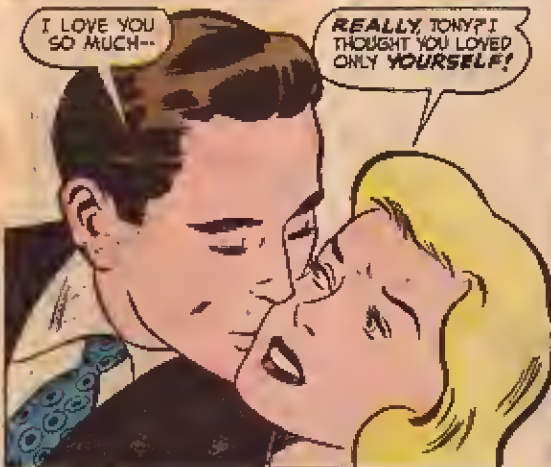


TO THE LOVELIEST GIRL I'VE EVER DREAMED OF---WHOSE BRIGHT BEAUTY DUNK THE GLITTER OF GEMS! --HE'S LOSING HIS HEAD---SOON HELL REALLY SUFFER!

"YES I WAS DETERMINED TO MAKE HIM FEEL THE AGONY I MYSELF HAD FELT! I KEPT HIM AT ARM'S LENGTH--AND FINALLY--"



"WHEN HE ARRIVED, I KNEW AT LAST THAT THE STAGE WAS SET FOR MY LONG-AWAITED REVENGE!"



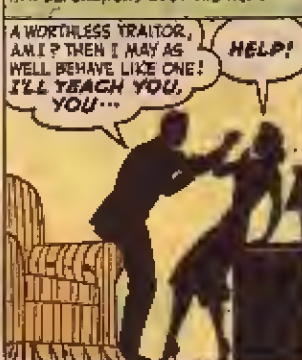
AND I STILL THINK SO! THIS IS WHAT I WANTED, TONY--TO MAKE YOU COME CRAWLING TO ME SO THAT I COULD BREAK YOUR HEART AS YOU DID MINE!



"MY WORDS BURNED THROUGH HIS POLISHED VENEER--REACHED THAT JOY-CALLOUSED OBJECT HE CALLED A HEART! BUT NOTHING COULD STOP ME NOW!"

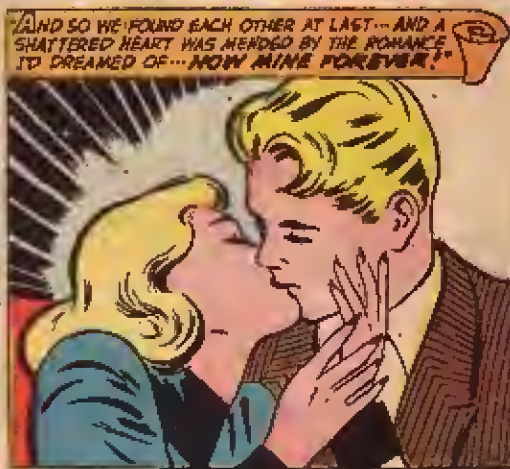
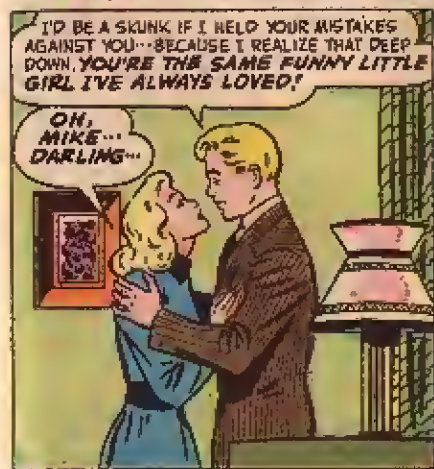
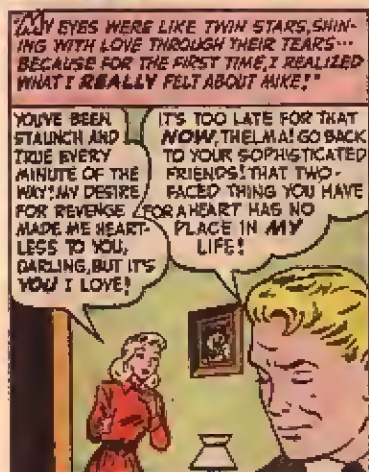


"I HADN'T RECKONED WITH HIS FIERCE TEMPER! IN RAGE AND HUMILIATION AT BEING TREATED AS NO WOMAN HAD EVER TREATED HIM BEFORE, TONY LOST HIS HEAD--"



"AS I SCREAMED IN TERROR, THROUGH THE OPEN DOORWAY CAME MIKE--LIKE A HEAVEN-SENT DELIVERER!"





Jealous of a SHADOW!

IT WAS even more wonderful than she had ever dreamed . . . this engagement luncheon. For there was Tim's hand, holding hers, and there were Tim's eyes saying, "Hope, I love you, I love you!"

And there was Bert, Tim's best friend and roommate, lifting his glass on high and saying, "Here's to the bride-and-groom-to-be!"

It seemed to Hope that everything was coming true for her, that nothing could mar the perfection of her engagement day. She reached into her purse for her compact. "I want to see," she thought, "if I can possibly look as happy as I feel!"

And then came the first small ripple on the surface of her happiness: From the corner of her eye, she saw Bert gesture lightly to Tim. "Barbara?" he half-whispered. And Tim, her Tim, nodded quickly, as though to show that he understood Bert's question.

Barbara . . . Barbara . . . Barbara! For the rest of the luncheon, Hope repeated the name of this unknown girl to herself. *Who is Barbara?* A tiny flicker of jealousy stirred within her.

Tim was speaking to her. "Call for me tomorrow, darling," he was saying. "We'll go out and buy you the most beautiful engagement ring in the world!"

Hope managed a smile. "I'll be there," she promised. "I'll pick you up at about noon."

But the day and night were spoiled for Hope, broken by an image of an unknown girl, a shadow named Barbara. And the small flicker of jealousy flared into a flame, as she wondered who Barbara was and what she meant to Tim.

It was early when Hope breezed into Tim's apartment. So early, in fact, that

she seemed to be interrupting a private scene. For Tim was tossing a packet of letters into the fireplace, and Bert was saying, "That's the last of Barbara!"

The two men tried to cover their conclusion when Hope came in. But Hope was not deceived. She stared at the burning letters, waiting for her chance. It came soon.

Bert had gone and Tim was getting his coat from the closet, when Hope darted toward the fireplace. Her fingers burned as she plucked a blackened letter from the grate. And her eyes smarted as she read the end of a tender and beautiful love letter to . . . *Barbara!*

" . . . and you will always be my love," it said. The signature was charred, illegible. Hope's flame of jealousy became a forest fire, wild and uncontrollable.

She and Tim . . . all over and done with! Snatching up her purse, Hope fled from the apartment, to her own house, where she could cry and storm unseen. It was the end of everything, for Tim would always be her only love, as he had written to Barbara. Racked by jealousy and storm-tossed by love, Hope pretended to herself, "I'm glad! Glad I learned about this now, instead of later!"


The sound of the doorbell intruded. It was Bert, who seemed frightened and embarrassed at the same time. Hope spoke harshly, her voice thick with tears. "It's no use, Bert, you can't cover up for him!"

"That's it, Hope," Bert cried. "It's Tim, who's been covering up for me! He saved me from a girl who'd stop at nothing, even blackmail! You see, Barbara was my girl!"

"How long will it take me," Hope thought, "to be back in Tim's arms?"

"PRINCESS," they called her -- and she played with men's hearts with royal disdain! But that was before she learned love's lesson, and found


Romance ON VALENTINE RANCH



I WAS A SPOILED BRAT -- AND HE WAS MAN ENOUGH TO TELL ME SO! MAYBE THAT'S WHY MY HEART WENT OUT TO HIM IN A STRANGE STORM OF HATE -- AND LOVE!



LET'S LOOK IN ON AN ARIZONA BURE RANCH!
TUNE IN THE PRESENT. SAY -- WHAT'S THIS?



OH, MARY -- IF WE COULD ONLY GO ON LIKE THIS -- FOREVER --

OH, TOM, DON'T SAY THAT!



WHY NOT? YOU KNOW I MEAN IT!

PLEASE, IT'S BEEN SO LONELY -- DON'T -- DON'T SPOIL EVERYTHING NOW!



AH, THERE ARE MY LOVEBIRDS! I'LL CORRAL THEM TO THE PARLOR FOR SOME TEA, THEN SNEAK OFF AND--



WE COME FROM TWO DIFFERENT WORLDS-- THERE'S A GULF BETWEEN US! TRY TO UNDERSTAND -- PLEASE!

I--I THOUGHT YOU **CARED**-- BUT IF **THAT'S** THE WAY YOU WANT IT--

AHEM!



ER-- I THOUGHT YOU TWO MIGHT HAVE SOME TEA WITH ME!

SORRY, BUT I'VE GOT SOME CHORES BEFORE TURNING IN! **GODD NIGHT!**



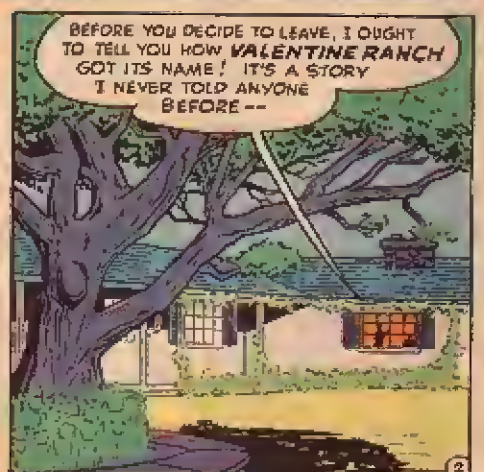
MRS. KANE, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT-- WELL, I'M LEAVING YOUR RANCH TOMORROW!

BUT, MY DEAR, YOU'VE PAID FOR TWO WEEKS! IS SOMETHING **WRONG** WITH THE PLACE?



NO! OH, IT'S SOMETHING I CAN'T TALK ABOUT!

I THINK I UNDERSTAND, DEAR! NOW, PLEASE SIT DOWN FOR A BIT!

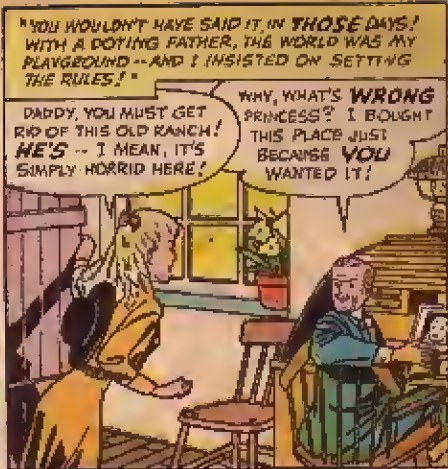


BEFORE YOU DECIDE TO LEAVE, I OUGHT TO TELL YOU HOW **VALENTINE RANCH** GOT ITS NAME! IT'S A STORY I NEVER TOLD ANYONE BEFORE --



YOU WOULDN'T THINK IT TO LOOK AT ME NOW, BUT I WAS ONCE A BUNDLE OF FUSS AND FRILLS--AND AS PRETTY AS THEY COME!

WHY WOULDN'T I? YOU'RE WONDERFUL JUST AS YOU ARE!



"YOU WOULDN'T HAVE SAID IT IN *THOSE DAYS!* WITH A DOYING FATHER, THE WORLD WAS MY PLAYGROUND--AND I INSISTED ON SETTING THE RULES!"

DADDY, YOU MUST GET RID OF THIS OLD RANCH! **HE'S**-- I MEAN, IT'S SIMPLY HORRID HERE!

WHY, WHAT'S **WRONG** PRINCESS? I BOUGHT THIS PLACE JUST BECAUSE **YOU** WANTED IT!



IT'S **FRED**-- THAT AWFUL FOREMAN OF YOURS! I ASKED HIM TO GIVE ME A RIDING LESSON--AND HE SAID HE WAS TOO **BUSY** AND JUST **RODE OFF!**

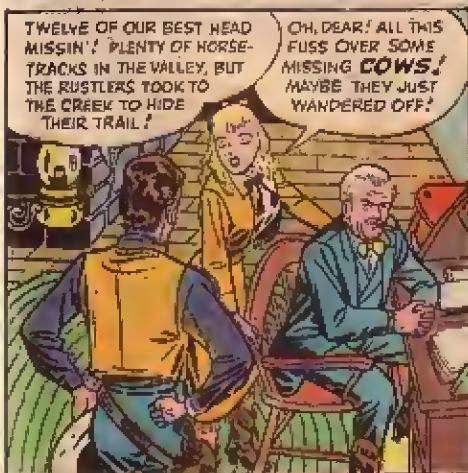
WELL, DARLING, **MAYBE HE WAS!**



SORRY TO BREAK IN LIKE THIS, MR. CLARK, BUT **RUSTLERS** HAVE BEEN AROUND AGAIN!

WMPH!

RUSTLERS!



TWELVE OF OUR BEST HEAD **MISSIN'!** PLENTY OF HORSE-TRACKS IN THE VALLEY, BUT THE **RUSTLERS** TOOK TO THE CREEK TO HIDE THEIR TRAIL!

OH, DEAR! ALL THIS FUSS OVER SOME MISSING **COWS!** **MAYBE THEY JUST WANDERED OFF!**



GUESS THERE'S NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO ABOUT IT RIGHT NOW!

THEN YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE ME THAT **RIDING LESSON!**

YES-- IF YOU HAVE TIME -- I'D APPRECIATE IT *

"IT WAS A VICTORY OVER HIM--AND I EXULTED IN IT! HE'D SHOW NO PRIDE AND INDEPENDENCE WHERE I WAS CONCERNED!"

YUH ALWAYS
GET YORE WAY,
DON'T YUH?

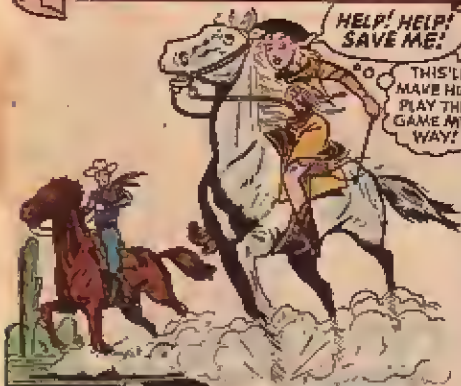
IS THERE ANY REASON
WHY I **SHOULDN'T**?
COME ON-- I DON'T
LIKE TO BE KEPT
WAITING!



"SO HE DIDN'T **WANT** MY COMPANY, EH? I'D TEACH HIM -- EVEN IF IT TOOK A **RUSE** TO DO IT! SPURRING MY HORSE FORWARD --"

HELP! HELP!
SAVE ME!

THIS'LL
MAKE HIM
PLAY THE
GAME MY
WAY!



"HIS **STRONG GRIP** THRILLED ME MORE THAN I HAD DREAMED POSSIBLE -- BUT I FOUND MY TRIUMPH **SHORT-LIVED!**"

YUH **WANTED**
TO BE RESCUED, SO--
SERVICE WITH
A SMILE,
PRINCESS!

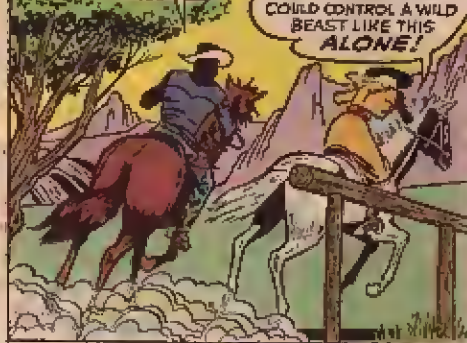
WHY,
YOU--!



YUH RIDE PRETTY WELL FOR A GIRL
WHO CLAIMS SHE NEEDS **LESSONS!**

I MIGHT AS WELL TURN BACK--
NOTHIN' I KIN
TEACH YUH!

OH, BUT
YOU **MUSTN'T**
LEAVE ME! I NEVER
COULD CONTROL A WILD
BEAST LIKE THIS
ALONE!



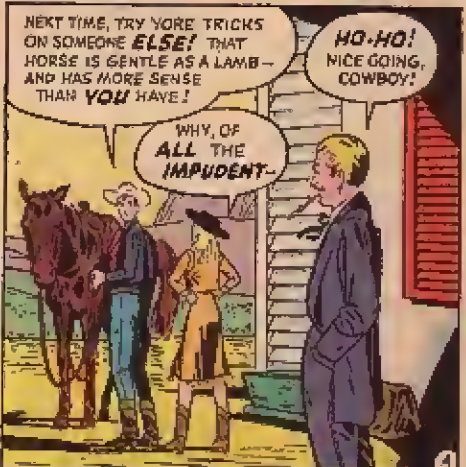
OH--



NEXT TIME, TRY YORE TRICKS
ON SOMEONE **ELSE!** THAT
HORSE IS GENTLE AS A LAMB--
AND HAS MORE SENSE
THAN **YOU** HAVE!

HO-HO!
NICE GOING,
COWBOY!

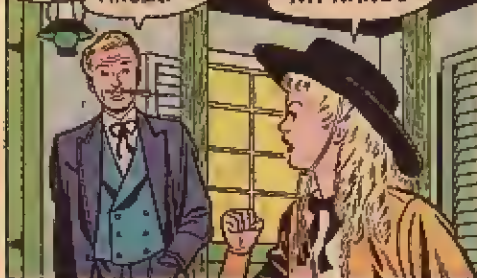
WHY, OF
ALL THE
IMPUDENT--



"THE NEW ARRIVAL WAS WINSLOW--A SOCIAL BUTTERFLY WHO WAS SPENDING THE SUMMER WITH US! I HAD REJECTED HIS MANY PROPOSALS, SO NOW HE DELIGHTED IN MY HUMILIATION!"

HA! HE REALLY TOLD YOU OFF, PRINCESS! THERE'S ONE CHAP YOU CAN'T WRAP AROUND YOUR FINGER!

YOU THINK NOT? WELL, I'LL SHOW YOU--AND HIM, TOO! IN A WEEK, I'LL HAVE HIM EATING OUT OF MY HAND!



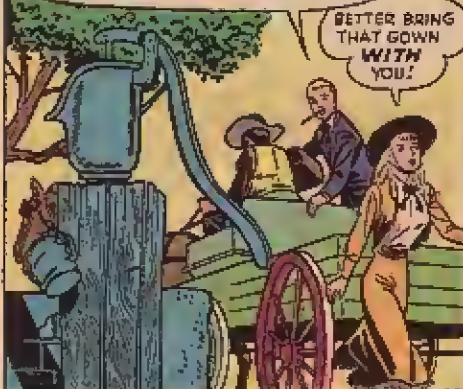
I DON'T BELIEVE IT, MY SWEET! NOW ABOUT A LITTLE WAGER ON THAT? SAY AN EVENING GOWN, AGAINST--UH--A KISS!

IT'S A BET!



REMEMBER--YOU HAVE ONE WEEK! I'M LEAVING ON A SHORT BUSINESS TRIP, BUT I'LL BE BACK BY THEN!

BETTER BRING THAT GOWN WITH YOU!



"NIGHTFALL BROUGHT QUALMS! HAD I BEEN TOO RASH IN MY WAGER? BUT THERE WAS MORE THAN A MERE BET AT STAKE! FOR FRED HAD TREATED ME AS NO MAN EVER HAD, AND MY HEART CRIED OUT FOR REVENGE!"

I'LL MAKE HIM GROVEL AT MY FEET!



I HAVE IT--WHAT AN IDEA! AND THERE'S NO TIME LIKE RIGHT NOW!

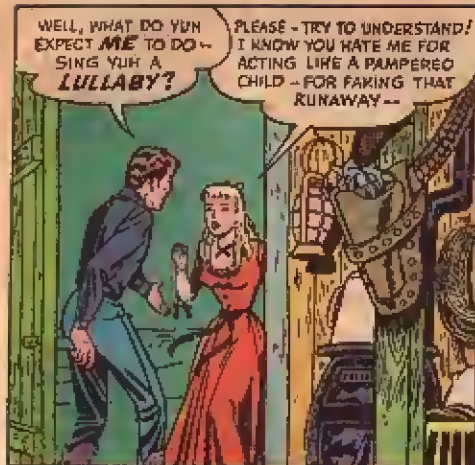


"I STILL REMEMBER THE AIR OF MEER HUMILITY I DONNED--WHILE MY HEART EXULTED WITHIN ME!"

SO IT'S YOU, EH? WHAT'S THE TROUBLE NOW?

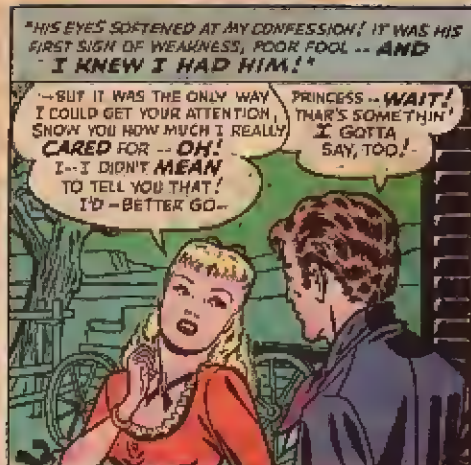
I--I'M SORRY IF I DISTURBED YOU, BUT I--JUST COULDN'T SLEEP--





WELL, WHAT DO YUN
EXPECT ME TO DO--
SING YUH A
LULLABY?

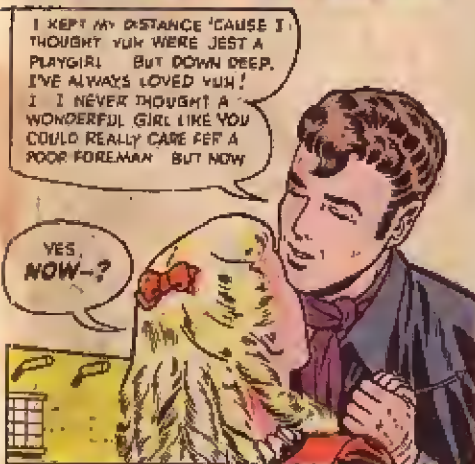
PLEASE - TRY TO UNDERSTAND!
I KNOW YUH HATE ME FOR
ACTING LIKE A PAMPERED
CHILD - FOR FAKING THAT
RUNAWAY --



"HIS EYES SOFTENED AT MY CONFESSION! IT WAS HIS
FIRST SIGN OF WEAKNESS, POOR FOOL -- AND
I KNEW I HAD HIM!"

--BUT IT WAS THE ONLY WAY
I COULD GET YOUR ATTENTION,
SHOW YOU HOW MUCH I REALLY
CARED FOR -- OH!
I-- I DIDN'T MEAN
TO TELL YOU THAT!
I'D - BETTER GO--

PRINCESS -- WAIT!
THAT'S SOMETHIN'
I GOTTA
SAY, TOO! -

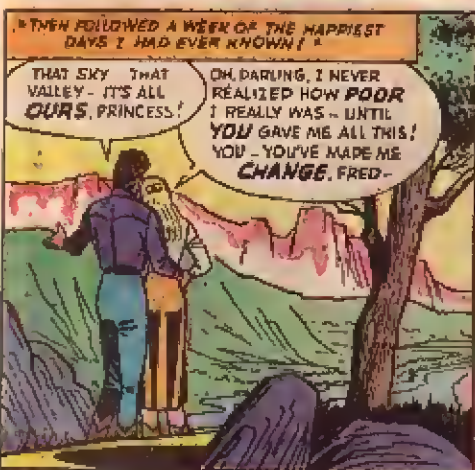


I KEPT MY DISTANCE 'CAUSE I
THOUGHT YUH WERE JEST A
PLAYGIRL. BUT DOWN DEEP,
I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YUH!
I I NEVER THOUGHT A
WONDERFUL GIRL LIKE YOU
COULD REALLY CARE FEF A
POOR FOREMAN. BUT NOW

YES,
NOW--?



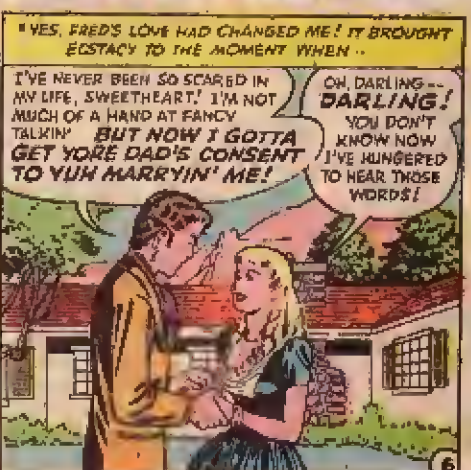
"I WASN'T READY FOR WHAT HAPPENED--FOR THE
STRONG EMBRACE WHICH QUICKENED MY HEART,
LIFTED ME TO HEAVENLY HEIGHTS! I FORGOT THE
SOCIAL GULF BETWEEN US, FORGOT THAT SILLY
WAGER AND MY PLANS FOR REVENGE! THIS WAS
A MAN SUCH AS I'D NEVER KNOWN!
THIS WAS LOVE!"



"THEN FOLLOWED A WEEK OF THE HAPPIEST
DAYS I HAD EVER KNOWN!"

THAT SKY THAT
VALLEY - IT'S ALL
OURS, PRINCESS!

OH, DARLING, I NEVER
REALIZED HOW POOR
I REALLY WAS -- UNTIL
YOU GAVE ME ALL THIS!
YOU - YOU'VE MADE ME
CHANGE, FRED--



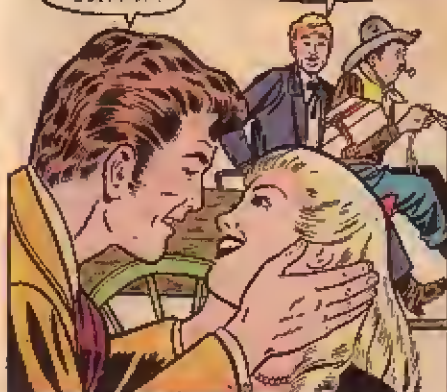
"YES, FRED'S LOVE HAD CHANGED ME! IT BROUGHT
ECSTASY TO THE MOMENT WHEN --

I'VE NEVER BEEN SO SCARED IN
MY LIFE, SWEETHEART! I'M NOT
MUCH OF A HAND AT FANCY
TALKIN' BUT NOW I GOTTA
GET YORE DAD'S CONSENT
TO YUH MARRYIN' ME!

OH, DARLING--
DARLING!
YOU DON'T
KNOW NOW
I'VE HUNGURED
TO HEAR THOSE
WORDS!

HERE GOES! JUST ONE
MORE KISS TO GIVE ME
COURAGE!

WELL, I'LL BE...!
SHE'S DONE IT!

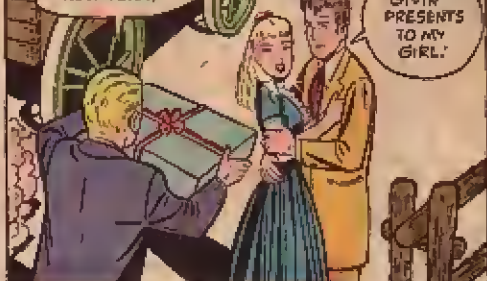


"I WAS WINSLOW! AND WITH ALL THE HAPPINESS IN
THE WORLD JUST BEFORE ME, THAT FOOLISH, FORGOTTEN
BET EXPLODED IN MY FACE LIKE A TIME BOMB!"

CONGRATULATIONS,
PRINCESS! I THOUGHT
YOU'D BAG HIM—SO I
BOUGHT YOU THE BEST
EVENING GOWN IN
NEW YORK!

OH, PLEASE!
PLEASE
DON'T! —

I DON'T
LIKE YORE
TALK,
MISTER...
AND I DON'T
LIKE MEN
GIVIN'
PRESENTS TO
MY GIRL!



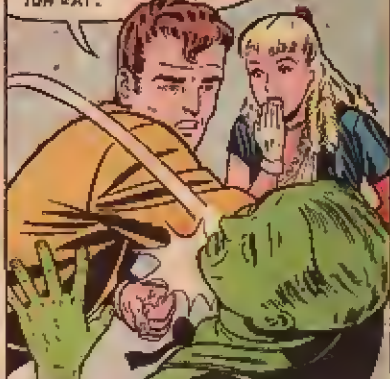
THE PRINCESS—YOUR GIRL? WHY, MY GOOD CHAP, IT
WAS ALL JUST A LITTLE JOKE BETWEEN US! THE
PRINCESS BET SHE COULD HAVE YOU EATING OUT
OF HER HAND IN A WEEK AND --

IS THIS
TRUE?

OH--

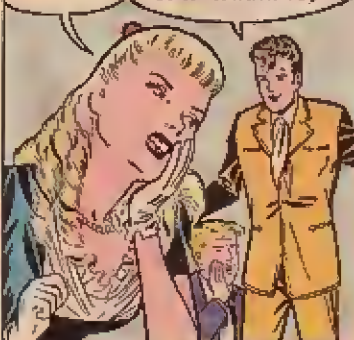


THAT'S ANSWER ENOUGH FER
ME — AN' HERE'S SOMETHIN'
FER YORE PART IN IT,
YUH RAT!



OH, WHY
DON'T YOU
STRIKE ME,
TOO?
I DESERVE
IT!

ONLY BECAUSE YUH'RE
NOT A MAN! AND YUH'RE
NOT A WOMAN, EITHER—
NOT MY KIND! YUH'RE
JEST A TREACHEROUS,
LYIN' VARMIN'T!—



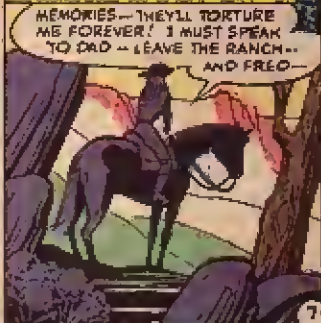
—AN' I'M A CONSERVED
FOOL! DON'T BOTHER
SPEAKIN' TO ME AGAIN—
EVER!

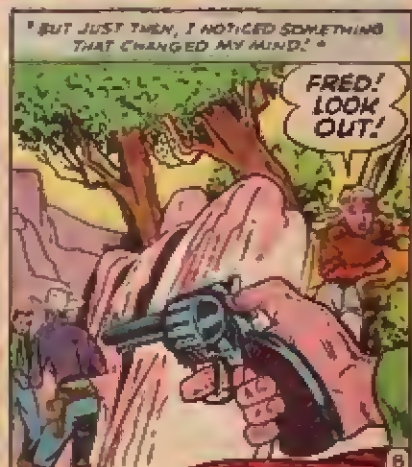
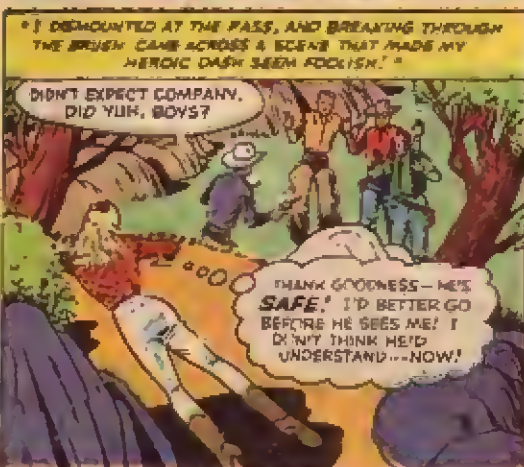
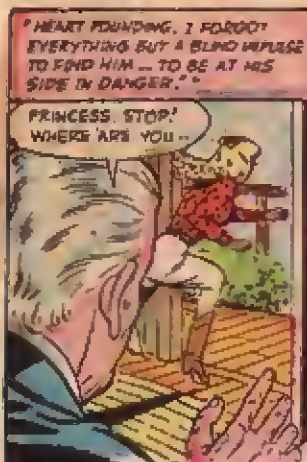
OH—
FRED—



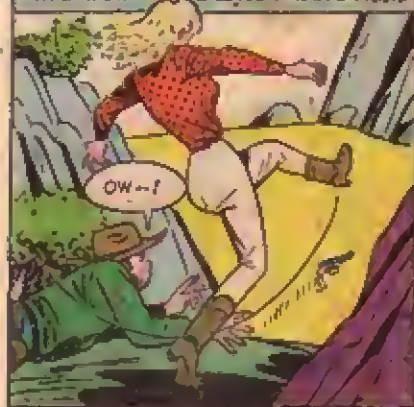
"AND SO A RAPTURED DREAM
FADED, AND ONLY HOPELESS
HEARTBREAK REMAINED! I
WANDERED FROM THE RANCH,
VISITING THOSE PLACES THAT
HAD MEANT SO MUCH TO ME
THAT GOLDEN WEEK --"

MEMORIES—THEY'LL TORTURE
ME FOREVER! I MUST SPEAK
TO DAD — LEAVE THE RANCH—
AND FRED—





"I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT THE MENACE OF THAT DEADLY GUN! I ACTED--KNOWING ONLY THAT THE MAN I LOVED WAS IN DANGER!"



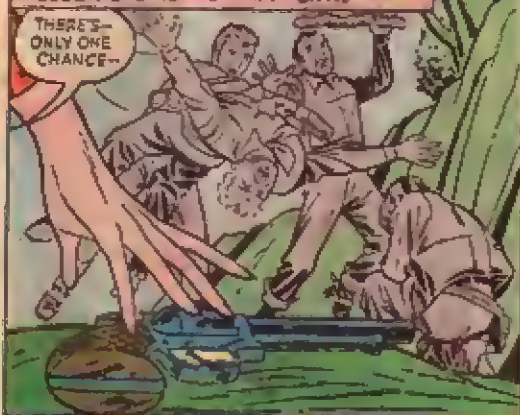
"BUT, DISTRACTED BY MY CRY--"

NOW'S OUR CHANCE--
RUSH HIM!



"FRED FOUGHT LIKE A WILDCAT, BUT THE ODDS WERE AGAINST HIM--UNTIL--"

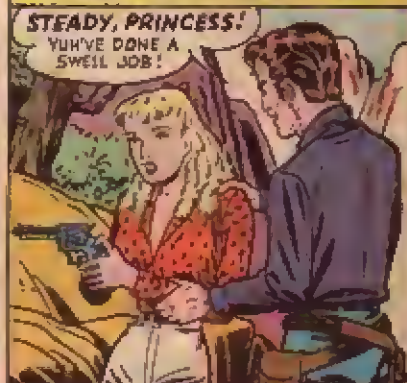
THERE'S ONLY ONE CHANCE--



"ONLY ONE LAST, DESPERATE CHANCE--
AND I TOOK IT! HAND SHAKING--
I HELD THE RUSTLERS AT BAY!"

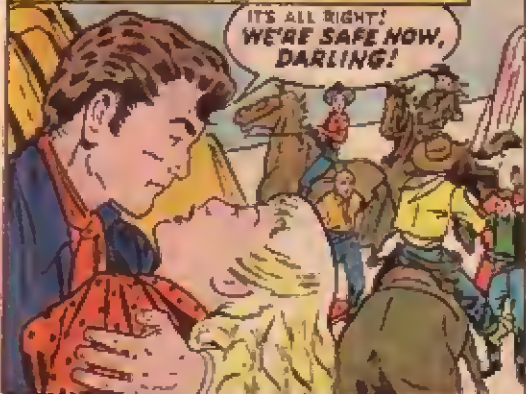
STEADY, PRINCESS!

YOU'VE DONE A SWEET JOB!



"MY DAD HAD SENT A POSSE AFTER US--AND AS IT ARRIVED, I FAINTED INTO THE ARMS OF THE MAN I LOVED!"

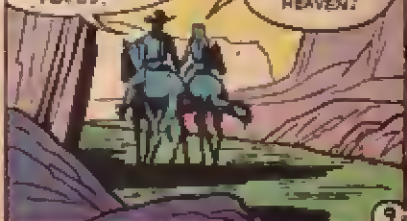
IT'S ALL RIGHT!
WE'RE SAFE NOW,
DARLING!

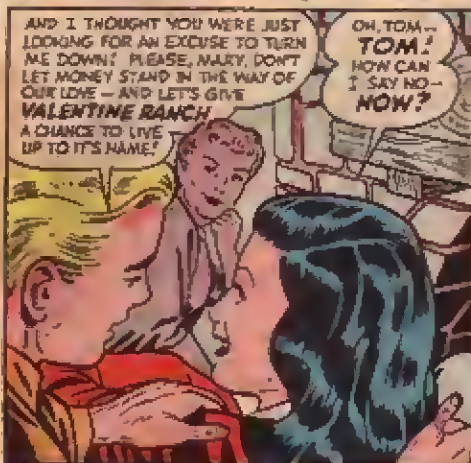


"THERE'S JUST ONE MORE THING TO TELL--"

YOU'VE TAUGHT ME A LESSON, PRINCESS! I KNOW NOW THAT LOVE CHANGES PEOPLE, AN' SHOWS THEM AS THEY REALLY ARE! THERE'S NO GULF BETWEEN POVERTY AN' RICHES!... AN' THAT'S ONLY HAPPINESS AHEAD FOR US!

LET'S SPEND OUR LIFETIME HERE, FRED! WE'LL CALL OUR PLACE **VALENTINE RANCH**--IN MEMORY OF THE SWEETEST ROMANCE THIS SIDE OF HEAVEN!





Famous BANNER FIREWORKS!

BOOM! BANG! OH-BOY!

ZIP!

All your old fashioned favorites with several new clever first times offered. Over 1000 pieces--each piece a thrilling combination of noise and beauty.

RUIZ BOMBS--STAR SHELLS--BLACK BUSTERS--SHRIM AERIAL BOMBS--ZIG ZAG WHISTLES--FLASH-LIGHT KRACKERS--JAP POP-BOTTLE SKY ROCKETS etc.

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MONEY can't make MARRIAGE

FORGET HIM,
DONA! THERE'S
NOTHING IN LIFE
THAT I CAN'T
BUY YOU!

NOTHING--
BUT
LOVE!

"**M**OST PEOPLE think that riches are everything-- that a wealthy girl is a happy one! Well, let's see how it worked out in **MY** case! I'm Dona Lynn, reared in the lap of luxury by parents who catered to my every whim! And yet I found heartache and disillusion, because there was something money **COULDN'T** buy me -- **TRUE LOVE!**"

"**LOOK, READER!** IF YOU SAW ME AT A DANCE -- LIKE THIS -- YOU'D SAY I WAS POPULAR AND LUCKY, WOULDN'T YOU? BUT LISTEN -- **HEAR THOSE WHISPERS!**"

OUR DONA'S PLENTY
POPULAR -- AS
USUAL!

WHY NOT? THE GUY WHO
MARRIES **HER** WILL BE
SET FOR LIFE!

"**I HEARD THEM TOO, AND THEY WEREN'T TELLING ME ANYTHING NEW! FOR FORTUNE-HUNTERS WERE AN OLD THING TO ME! MY HEART ACHED AS EACH NEW ONE PRETENDED TO ADMIRE DONA LYNN -- WITH GLOATING DREAMS OF HER DADDY'S BANKROLL! BUT ONE NIGHT THERE WAS SOMEONE DIFFERENT --**"

MIND IF I CUT IN?
JEFF COLLINS
IS THE NAME!

DO YOU
HAVE TO?
--OH, OKAY!

"I SENSED FROM THE FIRST THAT JEFF WASN'T LIKE OTHER MEN I'D KNOWN -- AND MY HEART BEAT FASTER WITH THE THRILLING KNOWLEDGE!"

LOOK, IF WE STAY HERE, SOMEBODY'S BOUND TO CUT IN ON ME -- AND I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU! THERE'S A LITTLE JUKE JOINT ABOUT A MILE DOWN THE ROAD! IT'S NOT FANCY LIKE THIS, BUT WOULD YOU ---?

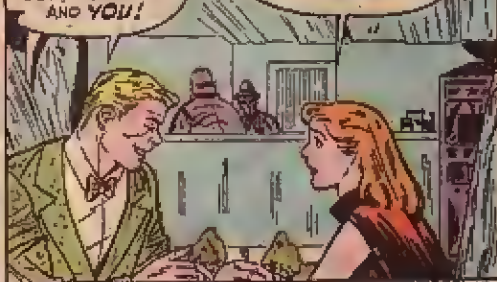
CALL ME DONA, JEFF! SURE -- I'D LOVE TO!



"WE FORGOT ALL ABOUT DANCING WHEN WE GOT THERE! WE WERE TOO BUSY TALKING, DISCOVERING EACH OTHER -- AND WE LIKED WHAT WE FOUND!"

THEY CAN KEEP THEIR RITZY ORCHESTRAS, FORMAL CLOTHES AND FANCY GRUB! JUST GIVE ME A JUKE BOX, A SUNDAE -- AND YOU!

YOU -- YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT, JEFF! I DON'T HAVE TO BE ON MY GUARD WITH YOU AND I -- I LIKE IT!



"YES, BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING I LIKED EVEN MORE -- JEFF'S PARTING WORDS TO ME THAT NIGHT!"

SURE I LIVE HERE, ER -- WHY DO YOU ASK?

JUST TO BE ABLE TO TELL YOU THAT I'M NOT IMPRESSED, KID! I DON'T GO FOR THIS BIG-MONEY STUFF -- IT'S JUST YOU THAT I'M INTERESTED IN! LET'S PAL AROUND, BUT LIKE PALS, NOT VANDERBILTS!



"THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED WERE AN ENDLESS DELIGHT! FOR THE FIRST TIME, I, DONA LYNN, WAS JUST PLAIN FOLKS! -- AND I LOVED IT!"

HOW REMEMBER, GET PLENTY OF PLAY INTO THAT ARM! -- AM I HOLDING YOU TOO TIGHT?

OH, NO, JEFF! NOT TIGHT -- ENOUGH!



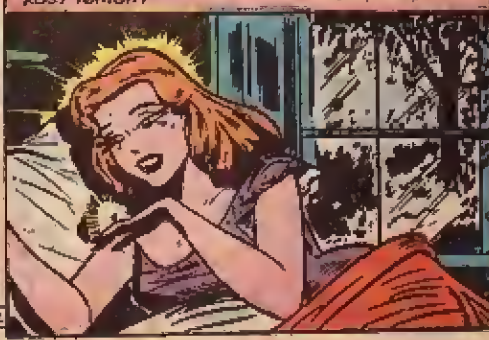
"I LOVED IT -- BECAUSE FOR THE FIRST TIME, HERE WAS A MAN WHO LIKED ME FOR MYSELF! -- AND NOT FOR THE LYNN CHECKBOOK! THEN FINALLY -- ONE NIGHT --"

I -- I'VE CARED FOR YOU SO LONG, DONA! WILL YOU -- MARRY ME?

YES, DARLING -- YES!



"WELL, DONA -- IT'S HAPPENED AT LAST! YOU'VE FOUND THE MAN OF YOUR DREAMS, HAVEN'T YOU? -- AND IT'S GOING TO BE ONE MARRIAGE WHERE MONEY IS MEANINGLESS! HE DOESN'T WANT ANYTHING BUT YOU -- AND THAT'S WHY YOUR HEART IS BEATING -- BEATING -- THAT'S WHY YOUR DREAMS WILL BE ROSY TONIGHT --"



"THE NEXT DAY CAME—AND WITH IT, BITTER DISILLUSION! ONLY A TELEPHONE CALL—BUT IT SPELLED ALL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ECSTASY AND HEARTBREAK FOR ME!"

MISS LYNN? THIS IS BRITISH LUXURY SEDANS, INC., AND I'M CHECKING ON A MR. JEFF COLLINS! HE'S ORDERED AN EXPENSIVE CAR AND TOLD US TO CHARGE IT TO **YOU** AFTER THE WEDDING! IS IT OKAY?

WHAT?
I—NO!
IT—IT'S NOT
OKAY! CANCEL
IT, DO YOU
HEAR?



"MY DREAMS WERE SHATTERED—MY HEART, AN ACHING STONE WITHIN ME! BUT I KNEW WHAT I HAD TO DO—"

IT—IT'S LUCKY I FOUND OUT IN TIME! YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER FORTUNE-HUNTER, JEFF—ONLY CLEVERER THAN THE REST! NOW GET OUT, DO YOU HEAR—
GET OUT!

OKAY, HONEY—OKAY! IT WAS A GOOD TRY, ANYWAY—TWEED SUIT, JUKE JOINT, ALL OF THE "SIMPLE" THINGS! THE ONLY REASON I LOST OUT WAS THAT STUPID CAR DEALER—I TOLD HIM NOT TO CONTACT YOU UNTIL WE WERE MARRIED!



"AND SO ONCE AGAIN THE LYNN MILLIONS HAD SEARED MY SOUL WITH SUFFERING! BUT NOW MY MIND WAS MADE UP—I WAS GOING TO GET AWAY FROM THEM, SEEK A HAPPINESS THAT COULDN'T BE BOUGHT!"

BUT DONA—YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE LIKE THIS, WITHOUT TELLING US WHERE YOU'RE GOING! STAY AND I'LL LET YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU WANT! A NEW CAR OR —

IT'S NO GO, DADDY—YOUR MONEY CAN ONLY STAND IN THE WAY OF WHAT I WANT! LET ME GIVE MYSELF THIS LAST CHANCE—
AND DO IT ON MY OWN!



"NEW YORK—AND DONA LYNN VANISHED!"

THERE WAS ONLY DORIS LYNCH NOW—A LITTLE GIRL FROM NOWHERE WHO SCANNED THE WANT ADS—AND FINALLY LANDED HERSELF A JOB IN A SMALL LAW FIRM!"

IT'S A FILE CLERK'S JOB—LONG HOURS AND DOESN'T PAY TOO MUCH! HANGED IF I CAN SEE WHY AN ATTRACTIVE, INTELLIGENT GIRL LIKE YOU SHOULD BE SO ANXIOUS TO LAND IT, BUT—

IF YOU'LL HAVE ME, SIR—
I'LL TAKE IT!



"MY FIRST JOB—AND I KNEW I HAD TO SUCCEED OR FAIL ON MY OWN! MAYBE I WAS OVER-ANXIOUS—WHICH EXPLAINED MY ACCIDENTAL MEETING WITH TOM BENTON!"

OH-HH!

I—I DON'T KNOW HOW I COULD HAVE BEEN SO CLUMSY!

YOU'RE MISS LYNCH, AREN'T YOU? I'M BENTON—ONE OF THE FIRM'S JUNIOR ATTORNEYS! WE'LL MEET A LOT AROUND THE OFFICE—BUT LET'S HOPE IT'LL BE A LITTLE LESS VIOLENTLY!

"AN OFFICE FRIENDSHIP SOON BECAME CLOSER—"

YOU LOOK WONDERFUL, TOM—AND THIS IS A GRAND PLACE! BUT ISN'T IT TOO EXPENSIVE—AND AREN'T YOU ASHAMED TO KEEP TAKING A POOR LITTLE THING LIKE ME OUT?

OH, HANG THE MONEY! THE IMPORTANT THING IS HOW LUCKY I AM THAT YOU'LL EVEN DATE ME!



"TOM KEPT ON DATING ME...EXPENSIVELY! THEN ONE NIGHT HE TURNED UP WITHOUT HIS TUXEDO! INSTEAD HE HAD A CONFESSION..."

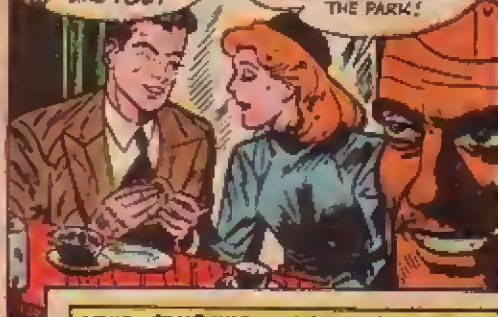
WE CAN'T GO TO THE DANCE, DORIS... BECAUSE I'M A FRAUD! THAT WAS A RENTED TUXEDO -- AND MY MONEY'S GONE! I SPENT IT TRYING TO MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION ON YOU -- BECAUSE YOU'RE SO LOVELY, SO SWEET...

YOU -- YOU BIG GOOF! IF YOU ONLY KNEW HOW LITTLE CHANCE YOU HAD TO IMPRESS ME WITH MONEY! LISTEN, DORIS, I'M HUNGRY -- AND I JUST LOVE HAMBURGERS!



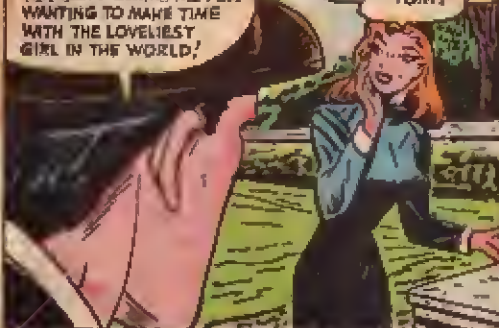
JEERES, IT'S A RELIEF NOT HAVING TO PUT UP A FRONT! I MIGHTA KNOWN THAT ACT WITH THE TUX WAS A LITTLE TOO HIGH-TONED FOR A NICE, DOWN-TO-EARTH KID LIKE YOU!

I REMEMBER A MAN WHO PUT ON AN ACT WITH A TWEED SUIT -- BUT HIS MOTIVE WAS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT! C'MON, FINISH UP -- IT'S A SWEET NIGHT FOR A WALK IN THE PARK!



YOU -- YOU'VE BEEN SWEET ABOUT ALL THIS, DORIS! I MUST HAVE BEEN CRAZY, PUTTING ON A CORNY ACT LIKE THAT! YOU SEE, I'M JUST A POOR LAWYER -- BUT YOU CAN'T BLAME ME FOR WANTING TO MAKE TIME WITH THE LOVELIEST GIRL IN THE WORLD!

MAYBE -- YOU COULD DO THAT BY JUST BEING YOURSELF! LET'S -- SIT DOWN, TOM!



"THIS -- THIS WAS THE MOMENT I'D LIVED FOR -- THE TRUE LOVE I HAD ALWAYS SOUGHT! MY THEOBALD HEART TOLD ME THAT IT WAS PLAIN, HONEST TOM I'D ALWAYS SOUGHT -- AND HIS HEART ANSWERED!"

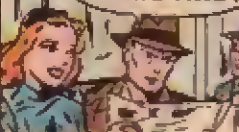


DARLING -- DARLING!

"I STILL REMEMBER THE BUS TRIP HOME THAT NIGHT, OUR HAPPY PLANS..."

WHO CARES NOW BROWNIE YOU ARE, YOU DARLING DRIFT? IT'S NOT LIKE I'M USED TO WEALTH! WE COULD GET MARRIED RIGHT AWAY AND START OFF IN A ONE-BEDROOM APARTMENT --

HOLD IT! AREN'T YOU FORGETTING THE HOUSING SHORTAGE? LET'S SEE IF THERE'S ANY ADS IN THE PAPER! -- HEY! WHAT'S THIS?



DORIS! THAT -- THAT GIRL! IT'S YOU!

TOM -- DON'T LOOK LIKE THAT! YOU'VE GOT TO LET ME EXPLAIN!



"BUT TOM WOULDN'T LISTEN TO ME! ESSENTIALLY, I FOLLOWED HIM OFF THE BUS..."

GOOD JOKE ON ME, WASN'T IT? BET YOU GOT A BIG CHARGE OUT OF THE POOR DUMB SUCKER WHO THOUGHT HE COULD SUPPORT A SOCIETY GAL ON NOTHING PER! LAUGH, WHY DON'T YOU -- LAUGH! BUT IF I EVER SEE YOU AGAIN, IT'LL BE TOO SOON!

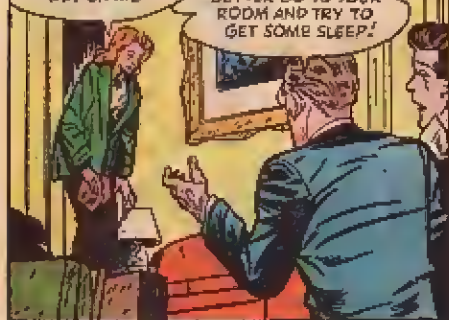
OH, TOM! TOM!



"AND SO EXIT DORIS LYNCH, THE GIRL WHO HAD TRIED--
AND FAILED!" AND DONA LYNN RETURNED TO HER
WEALTH-- TO AGONIZED SUFFERING ---"

--AND--AND WHEN
HE FOUND OUT WHO
I WAS, HE--WALKED
OUT ON ME ---

DON'T TRY TO TELL US
ANYTHING MORE ABOUT
IT NOW, DEAR! YOU'D
BETTER GO TO YOUR
ROOM AND TRY TO
GET SOME SLEEP!



"I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT FATHER WAS PLANNING!
BUT THE FOLLOWING WEEK, I RECEIVED ANOTHER
TELEPHONE CALL WHICH CHANGED MY LIFE!"

DONA, DARLING! FORGET
EVERYTHING I SAID-- I WAS A
NEEL! LISTEN, I'VE GOT THE
BREAK OF A LIFETIME-- I'M
IN THE CHIPS! A BIG JOB WITH
A RICH LAW FIRM! WHEN
CAN I SEE YOU?

OH, TOM!
TAKE A TRAIN
DOWN RIGHT
AWAY-- I'LL
BE
WAITING!



WELL, MY SUCCESSFUL
ATTORNEY? READY TO
BEARD THE LIONS IN
THEIR DEN-- AND
MEET MY FOLKS?

I'LL SAY, HONEY-CHILE!
I'D HAVE NEVER
ENTERED YOUR DOOR
AS A PAUPER-- BUT NOW
THAT I'VE MADE THE
GRADE STRICTLY ON MY
**OWN-- BRING
'EM ON!**



THAT-- FOOL!
I COULD KILL HIM
FOR WHAT HE'S DONE
TO DONA!

I WONDER! AT LEAST HE
WASN'T AFTER HER MONEY--IT
WAS WHAT DROVE HIM AWAY!
WE'VE ALWAYS USED OUR WEALTH
TO BUY HER MATERIAL THINGS!
MAYBE IF WE USED IT RIGHTLY,
IT MIGHT STILL BRING HER
WHAT SHE CRAVES--**LOVE!**
**MARY, I'M GOING TO
GIVE IT ONE LAST
TRY!**



"I COUNTED THE GOLDEN MOMENTS--LISTENED FOR
THE TRAIN WHISTLE THAT WAS THE SWEETEST MUSIC
IN THE WORLD--AND FINALLY ---"

DONA-- DONA!
CAN YOU EVER--
FORGIVE ME?

AND I-- THOUGHT
I'D LOST YOU
FOREVER!



**"THIS WAS HAPPINESS-- THESE WERE THE TENDER
MOMENTS I'D ALWAYS TREASURE! FOR EVEN BEFORE
WE ENTERED MY HOUSE ---"**

AN--ENGAGEMENT--
RING! YOU--YOU
SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE
IT, TOM-- IT'S SO
EXPENSIVE ---

ARE YOU FORGETTING MY
NEW JOB? --CALL IT A
SYMBOL, SWEETHEART--A
SYMBOL OF THE FACT THAT
HERE'S ONE THING YOUR
FATHER'S MONEY
DIDN'T BUY!





WELL, NOW THAT YOU KNOW HIM, I HOPE YOU'RE GOING TO LIKE HIM AS YOUR **SON-IN-LAW!**

AND JUST SO'S WE START OFF RIGHT, MR. LYNN, I'M GOING TO SUPPORT DONA... BY MY OWN WORK!

FINE, MY BOY—**FINE!** WE'VE GOT A LOT TO TALK OVER AT DINNER!



YOU SEE, SIR, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO LIVE ON WHAT I MAKE—BUT SETTON AND STYLES ARE STARTING ME OFF AT A NICE SALARY!

SETTON AND STYLES! WHY, THAT'S ONE OF **DADA'S SUBSIDIARY FIRMS!**

"IN THE STUNNED SILENCE THAT FOLLOWED, I KNEW THAT I'D MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE! I SAW THE LOOK ON TOM'S FACE—AND MY DREAM CASTLES COLLAPSED TRAGICALLY!"

SO THE WHOLE THING'S A PLOT, EH—A PLOT TO **BUY ME!** WELL, I WON'T BE BOUGHT—AND THIS IS ONE MARRIAGE THAT ALL YOUR MONEY WON'T MAKE! YOU CAN FORGET THAT JOB—**BECAUSE I'M NOT TAKING YOUR CHARITY!**

TOM! DON'T!



"TOM'S FACE WAS A STUDY IN CONFLICTING EMOTIONS! I WAITED WITH BATED BREATH—FOR ON HIS NEXT WORDS WING ALL OF MY HOPES FOR HAPPINESS! FINALLY—THEY CAME!"

I **COULD** BE A STIFF-NECKED IDIOT AND WALK OUT OF HERE—**BUT I WON'T!** GUESS I'LL DROP THAT CHIP I'VE BEEN CARRYING AROUND ON MY SHOULDER FOR SO LONG! I WON'T BE NEEDING IT AT SETTON AND STYLES—**AND SOMETHING TELLS ME MY WIFE'LL LIKE ME BETTER WITHOUT IT!**

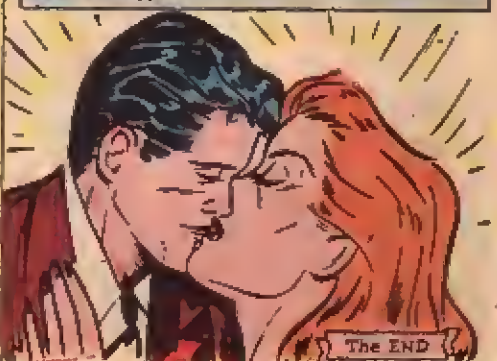


"THERE WERE ONLY THE ASHES OF A DEAD ROMANCE LEFT—I THOUGHT! FOR NOW, IN MY MOMENT OF GREATEST NEED, CAME UNEXPECTED AID!"

ALL RIGHT, YOU YOUNG FOOL—NOW LISTEN TO ME! I'VE GOT PRIDE TOO—I PRIDE MYSELF ON HIRING ONLY THE BEST MEN FOR ALL OF MY FIRMS! WHEN DONA TOLD ME ABOUT YOU, I CHECKED YOU THOROUGHLY—SCHOOL RECORD, PAST JOBS AND ALL! I FOUND YOU WERE A DURNED GOOD LAWYER—**AND YOU'RE WORTH MORE THAN I'M PAYING YOU!**—GOT ANYTHING TO OBJECT TO NOW?



THAT'S ALL THERE WAS, READER! I KNOW YOU WON'T MIND LEAVING ME ALONE NOW—A GIRL WANTS A LITTLE PRIVACY WHEN SHE'S PLAYING FOR A LIFETIME OF HAPPINESS—WITH THE HUSBAND SHE ADDRESSES!"



The END

BREAKING THE ICE

ONCE upon a time, there were two volcanoes. One sent fire and flame shooting from its peak, for all the world to see. The other smouldered and seethed inside, but appeared to be cold and forbidding.

Anne and Sharon worked in the same office, for the same boss. Anne was Ted Lindsay's secretary, and a good one. She was crisp, cool, efficient and impersonal . . . on the outside. Never a hair out of place, never a smudge of carbon on white collar and cuffs! And never a sign that her heart pounded and her pulses throbbed every time she typed Ted's name at the end of a letter.

Sharon was Ted Lindsay's receptionist. She was a girl who believed in grabbing what you want, and oo short-cuts. She was red-headed, wore plenty of mascara and the kind of clothes that did not belong in an office. She called her boss "Ted" and put plenty of feeling into his name.

The battle between Anne and Sharon was a silent one, hardly a battle at all on Anne's part. Anne was too quiet to fight, but Sharon knew what she wanted and meant to get it . . . him!

"Why, the little hypocrite!" Sharon muttered, watching Anne carry a sheaf of papers into Ted's office. "She was in there a second ago! She'll do anything to attract his attention! Who does she think she is? What is she trying to do, show me up?"

It was quite late one afternoon, when Sharon left her reception desk carrying her cosmetic case with her. At least three times a day, she spent a half-hour, "doing" her face. And so, there was no one at the reception desk when the phone rang.

It rang once, twice, three times.

From her desk across the office, Anne saw the deserted phone. Efficiently, she walked towards it, lifted the receiver.

"Oh, yes, I realize its importance," she said to the nervous client at the other end. "I'll deliver your message immediately."

Ted Lindsay was appreciative. "You are always efficient," he told Anne. "But where was Sharon? Wasn't she at her desk?"

There was no need for Anne to answer. Sharon herself, newly and brightly painted, marched into Ted's office, fight-light in her eyes.

"This does it!" she snapped. "I left my desk for a minute, Ted," she appealed to her boss. "What's on your mind?" she faced Anne. "A little undercover work? Why didn't you call me? Listen, iceberg, I know what's in your conniving mind! You're trying to make me look bad, so you'll look good to . . ."

Anne never allowed her to finish the tell-tale sentence. She clapped her hand over Sharon's mouth, murmuring, "Keep quiet!"

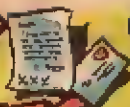
"Quiet?" Sharon guffawed, twisting out of Anne's grasp. "I'm all set to make a little noise. Why, we all know that you're crazy about . . ."

No one has ever been able to tell accurately what happened after that. Lady-like Anne kicked Sharon sharply. Sharon reached for Anne's hair. Anne slapped Sharon across the face. Sharon unsheathed her pointed nails, and screamed. She had cause to scream, for Anne, cool, crisp, efficient Anne, was winning this fight, hands down!

It was Ted Lindsay who put a stop to it, finally. It was also Ted Lindsay who took a dishevelled, panting, not-so-crisp Anne into his arms and sighed, "So you are human, after all!" And it was Ted Lindsay who planted a kiss firmly on Anne's quivering mouth and whispered, "You never can tell about a volcano!"



READERS' ROMANCES



Greetings, friends!

We've all heard the old one about all the world loving a lover—but what happens when lovers don't love each other? It's not nearly so funny as it sounds, because all it means is that good, old-fashioned subject of *lovers' quarrels*!

Despite the jokes aimed at dissension between sweethearts, it can frequently be a serious matter

which winds up in bitter tears and heartbreak. You've heard of many cases yourself, and you know that the woman always blames the man—who, in turn, places responsibility squarely at her door! So—whose fault is it? We think we know the answer—and we can best bring it to you by presenting two separate letters out of the many we've received. Let's get started with the first!

"To the editors, 'Romantic Adventures':

All love stories aren't happy ones. My boy friend and I have just split up, and I'm miserable about it. We'd already made plans for our marriage, but when I spoke about my mother coming to live with us, he lost his temper completely. I couldn't marry a man like that and I told him so. Was I right?

—Gertrude B., Johnstown, Pa."

Well, Gertrude B., we won't discuss who was right and who was wrong at the moment. Instead, we'll just print herewith another letter which came in two

days after yours. It's from a man, and from his letter you can see that he sounds as if he's pretty miserable!

"Dear editors:

I first became acquainted with your magazine through my ex-girl friend, who's a steady reader, and I thought that you might be able to advise me. My girl and I broke off because she wanted her mother to live with us when we were married, which I think isn't a good idea. I had planned to get my mother-in-law a place of her own, but my girl got so angry that I couldn't even propose it. Wouldn't you say that ending our engagement was proper?

—Alex R., Johnstown, Pa."

Call it fate—call it anything you want—but it's our bet that those two Johnstown letters came from the very kids who'd been so happily promised to each other such a short while before! They show us both sides of the case—and now, for the first time, Alex and Gertrude can see the plain truths that their hot tempers had hidden from each other! Gertrude loves her mother, Alex—can you blame her for her anger when she thought she was being discarded? But you, Gertrude—don't you think you should have waited until you heard what Alex had to suggest? And you were both wrong in that you lost your

tempers, and allowed foolish pride to break an engagement that a few moderate words could have preserved! But it *still* isn't too late! You both know what's in the other's heart—and you know you love each other! Better take it on the run to Gerlie's house, Al—she'll be waiting!

So there we have it—another heart problem happily solved! Now, how about yours, reader? Remember, we're here to help you—so get your letter off by return mail!

—THE EDITORS



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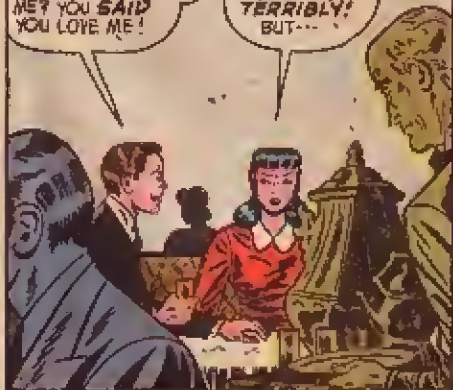
SHE KNEW WHAT SHE WANTED...
MONEY, A HOME, SECURITY?...
BUT WHEN THEY WERE HERS FOR THE
TAKING...SHE LEARNED THAT TRUE
HAPPINESS CAN'T BE BOUGHT...
AND THAT THE ONLY MARRIAGE WORTH
MAKING IS FOR LOVE!



BUNCH-TIME IN A CROWDED RESTAURANT...

BUT WHY, JOAN? WHY
WOULDN'T YOU MARRY
ME? YOU SAID
YOU LOVE ME!

I DO, DICK!
OH, I DO!
TERRIBLY!
BUT...



...LOVE ISN'T ENOUGH! YOU CAN BARELY
SUPPORT YOURSELF...LET ALONE ME!
TOGETHER, WE'D SPEND OUR LIVES BEING POOR
AND INSECURE! THAT MIGHT BE ALL RIGHT FOR
SOME GIRLS...BUT I WANT A HOME OF MY
OWN...COMFORT...AND A NICE, SAFE
BANK ACCOUNT! WHEN I MARRY, DICK
IT'LL HAVE TO BE FOR MORE THAN
JUST LOVE ALONE!



I HATE TO INTRUDE... BUT I COULDN'T HELP
OVERHEARING! I'D NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF,
MY DEAR, IF I KEPT SILENT AND LET YOU
THROW AWAY YOUR CHANCE
FOR HAPPINESS! BECAUSE YOU'RE
WRONG... TERRIBLY WRONG!



WHEN I WAS
YOUR AGE, I
ALSO THOUGHT
MONEY WAS
ALL THAT MATTER-
ED! HE'D HAD
SO PRECIOUS
LITTLE... DAD,
MY BROTHER
TIPPY AND I...
THAT I LONGED
FOR IT WITH A
DESPERATE
HUNGER!... DAD
OWNED A RACE
HORSE--AND THAT'S
WHERE ALL OUR
FUNDS WENT! WE
KEPT GETTING
POORER AND
POORER...
UNTIL ONE
DAY... "

DAD,
WHAT'S
TROUBLING
YOU? YOU
LOOK
WORRIED!

FRANKLY, NANCY, I AM!
I'VE FOOLISHLY BET
EVERYTHING WE'VE
GOT LEFT ON OUR
HORSE TO WIN THE
KENILWORTH
STAKES! IF--IF
WE LOSE, THERE'LL
BE NOTHING LEFT
FOR US BUT THE
POORHOUSE!



I STARED AT HIM--TOO STUNNED TO SPEAK! HOW
COULD HE HAVE DONE SUCH A THING?--THE
DAY OF THE BIG RACE I WATCHED THE HORSES TANDER
INTO THE STRETCH--HARDLY DARING TO BREATHE--

C'MON,
SKEETS!
C'MON!



SKEETS AND ANOTHER HORSE--COBRA...
WERE NECK-AND-NECK!-- BUT THEN--

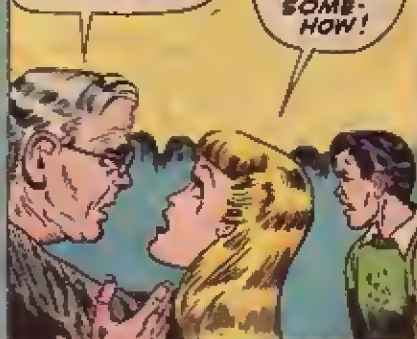
COBRA
WINS!



MY HEART
FELT LIKE A
STONE! WE
WERE BROKE--
PENNYLESS!
EVERYTHING
WE OWNED--
GAMBLED
AWAY ON A
HORSE
RACE! A
SICK BITTER-
NESS WELLED
UP INSIDE OF
ME--

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! WE'VE
LOST NANCY! LOST EVERY-
THING! OH, WHAT AN OLD
FOOL I'VE BEEN! HOW
CAN YOU AND TIPPY
EVER FORGIVE ME--

DARLING,
DON'T!
YOU MUSTN'T
TAKE IT SO
HARD! WE'LL
GET ALONG--
SOME-
HOW!



THAT LOOK IN HIS FACE SHOULD HAVE
WARNED ME AS WE STARTED THROUGH
THE CROWD--

TIPPY,
WHERE'S
DAD?

GOSH, S'S I
DUNNO! HE
MUST'VE
DISAPPEARED!



FEAR LAID ICEY FINGERS ON MY SPINE! WITH AWFUL INTUITION, I RACED TOWARD THE STABLES...PRAYING PRACTICALLY THAT I WOULD ARRIVE IN TIME! BUT AS I CAME TO THE STALL...



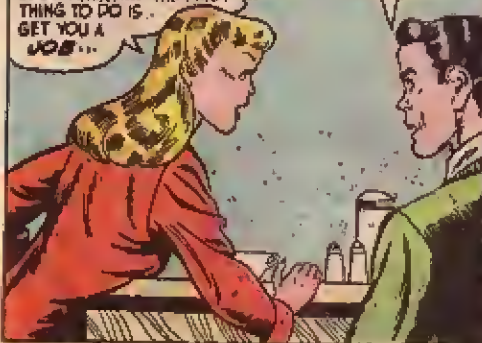
OH, DAD!...DAD! WHY DID YOU DO IT! WHY?



THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED WERE FILLED WITH HATE! HATE FOR HORSE RACING, WHICH HAD PAUPERIZED DAD, BROKEN HIS SPIRIT... AND FINALLY KILLED HIM! BUT I SWORE TO MAKE HIS DREAMS COME TRUE... THAT WE'D HAVE EVERYTHING MONEY COULD BUY...NOTHING COULD KEEP IT FROM ME!

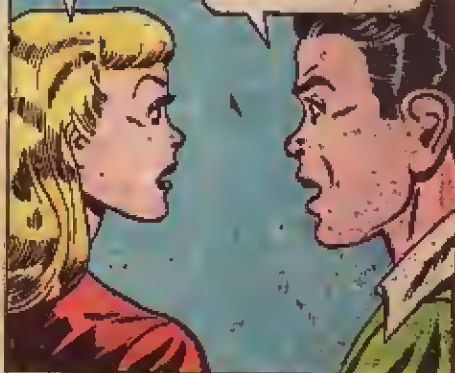
THERE'LL BE NO MORE HORSE RACING FOR US, TIPPY! NOW OR EVER! I STARTING TODAY, WE'RE GOING TO MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME! AND THE FIRST THING TO DO IS... GET YOU A JOB!

BUT SIS... I'VE GOT A JOB!



YOU HAVE? WHERE?

UH... WELL, IT'S AT THE RACE TRACK! DAN CARTER HIRED ME AS A JOCKEY TO RIDE HIS HORSE, BUTTONS!



OH, HE DID DID HE? WELL, YOU CAN JUST TELL MR. CARTER THAT YOU QUIT! I WON'T HAVE YOU MIXED UP WITH RACING, TIPPY!... AFTER A WHILE, YOU'D BECOME JUST LIKE DAD!

GOSH, NANCY, I CAN'T QUIT! RIDING IS THE ONLY THING I KNOW!

VERY WELL! I'LL TELL MR. CARTER MYSELF!



SEETHING WITH ANGER, I WENT LOOKING FOR DAN CARTER! BUT WHEN I FOUND HIM, HE WAS TALL AND HANDSOME... WITH A DISARMING CHARM THAT SEEMED TO ENTWINE ITSELF AROUND MY HEART!

...AND THAT'S IT, MR. CARTER! TIPPY ISN'T GOING TO RIDE FOR YOU OR ANYONE ELSE! WE'RE THROUGH WITH RACING!

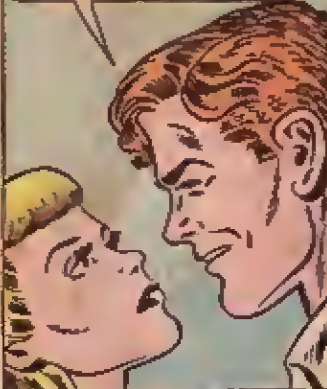
YOU SOUND BITTER, MISS REED! WHAT'VE YOU GOT AGAINST THE SPORT?



EVERYTHING! IT KILLED MY FATHER--AND I'M NOT GOING TO STAND BY AND SEE TIPPY HURT, TOO!

I'M SORRY! I KNEW YOUR DAD--HE WAS A SWELL GUY! IF YOU'LL LET ME--I'D LIKE TO HELP YOU FORGET!

"HIS TONE WAS SO TENDER AND UNDERSTANDING THAT THE TEARS BROKE THROUGH MY DEFENSES! I FOUND MYSELF SOBBING ON HIS SHOULDER--AND BEING COMFORTED!"



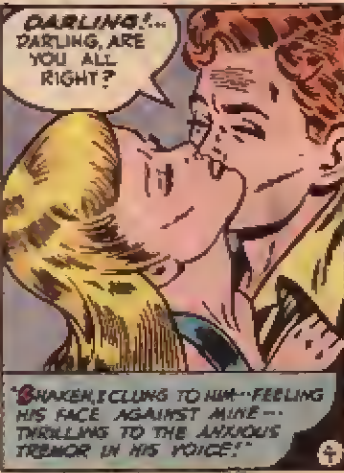
IT'S THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, DAN AND I SELDOM WERE OUT OF EACH OTHERS SIGHT! HIS CHARM LIFTED THE VEIL OF THE PAST FROM MY THOUGHTS! DESPITE MY HATRED FOR RACING, I WAS EVEN PERSUADED TO LET TIPPY RIDE BUTTONS...

DOESN'T THE SIGHT OF THEM MAKE YOUR BLOOD RACE, TOO? I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO MATCH BUTTONS IN THE NEXT RUNNING OF THE ABBOTT HANDICAP!

"DAN'S WORDS WOOK ME INTO SHOCKED REALIZATION! NOW I KNEW WHAT BEFORE I HAD ONLY SENSED--THAT DAN WAS JUST LIKE DAD--DEVOTING HIS LIFE TO THE RACE-TRACK! I KNEW, TOO, THAT I WAS FALLING IN LOVE WITH HIM--AND THAT IT COULDN'T BE!"

SURE WAS A SWELL PICNIC, MUNCHY! WHEN WILL I SEE YOU AGAIN?

NEVER, DAN! THIS IS OUR LAST DATE!



DARLING?... DARLING, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

"SHAKEN, I CLUNG TO HIM--FEELING HIS FACE AGAINST MINE--THRILLING TO THE ANXIOUS TREMBOR IN HIS VOICE!"

FOR WHAT SEEMED AN ETERNITY, HIS LIPS
HOVERED OVER MINE... AND ALL MY RESOLU-
TIONS WERE SWEEPED AWAY IN THE SWEET MAGK
OF HIS EMBRACE!



OH--
DAN!

THIS
COULDN'T
BE... I
THRUST
HIM AWAY!
I COULDN'T
BELIEVE
THAT I
CARED SO
DEEPLY...

NANCY, I LOVE YOU! THERE CAN NEVER
BE ANYONE FOR ME BUT YOU! SAY YOU'LL
MARRY ME!

NO, NO,
DAN--I... I
CAN'T!



YOU MEAN YOU WANT TO
...BUT YOU WON'T LET
YOURSELF! ISN'T THAT IT?
...YOU'RE AFRAID TO
LOVE ME?



YES--I AM AFRAID! AFRAID OF SPEND-
ING THE REST OF MY LIFE BEING POOR
...DOING WITHOUT THE THINGS I'VE
ALWAYS WANTED! AND THAT'S THE
KIND OF MARRIAGE I'D HAVE
WITH YOU!

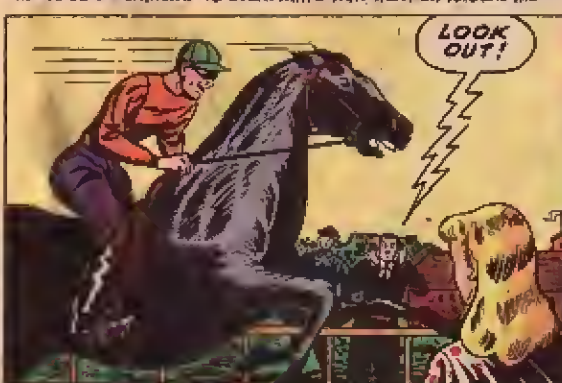


I... I NEVER WANT TO
SEE YOU AGAIN!

NANCY,
WAIT!



THE NEXT FEW DAYS WERE THE UNHAPPIEST I HAD EVER KNOWN!
MY LONGING FOR DAN SEEMED UNBEARABLE... BUT I REGISTED EVERY
DESIRE TO BE WITH HIM! THEN ONE MORNING, AS I WAS CROSSING
THE RACE TRACK, NUMB TO EVERYTHING THAT HEATON AROUND ME...



LOOK
OUT!



OH-HH!

THE NEXT THING I KNEW, A STRANGER WAS BENDING OVER ME SOLICITOUSLY...

WHAT...
WHAT
HAPPENED?

YOU FAINTED, AND I HAD MY CHAUFFEUR
CARRY YOU TO MY CAR! YOU SEE, I FEEL
PARTLY RESPONSIBLE... **CORREAIR.**
THE HORSE THAT NEARLY RAN YOU
DOWN, BELONGS TO ME, **DWIGHT
NEWTON!**

MY EYES
WIDENED...
MY HEART
QUICKENED!
**DWIGHT
NEWTON**
WAS ONE
OF THE
WEALTHIEST,
MOST
ELIGIBLE
BACHELORS
IN THE
COUNTRY!
A MAN
WHO COULD
OFFER ME
**EVERYTHING
I DESIRED!**

YOU'RE...
HOLDING
MY HANDS,
MR. NEWTON!

AM I?... I HOPE YOU DON'T
MIND! THEY'RE VERY NICE
HANDS... SOFT AND
FEMININE! I'D LIKE TO
HOLD THEM **AGAIN!**
I MAY! SHALL
WE SAY TO-
NIGHT... AT
THE **RITZ-
PLAZA?**

"**AND THUS
BEGAN A NEW
ERA IN MY
LIFE! DWIGHT
TOOK ME
EVERYWHERE...
SHOWED
ME WITH
GIFTS! RESOLUTELY,
I THRUST
DAN FROM MY
THOUGHTS!
I HAD ONLY
ONE GOAL--
BECOMING
MRS. DWIGHT
NEWTON!**"

MY DEAR--IT CAN'T
BE A SECRET THAT
I'M FRANTICALLY
IN LOVE WITH YOU!
I WANT YOU
TO BE MY WIFE,
NANCY!

"THE
WORDS
I WANTED
SO MUCH
TO HEAR!
YET THE
CONSENT
I HAD
SO CARE-
FULLY
REBUSED
REFUSED
TO COME
TO MY
LIPS!"

OH, DWIGHT,
I... I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT TO
SAY!

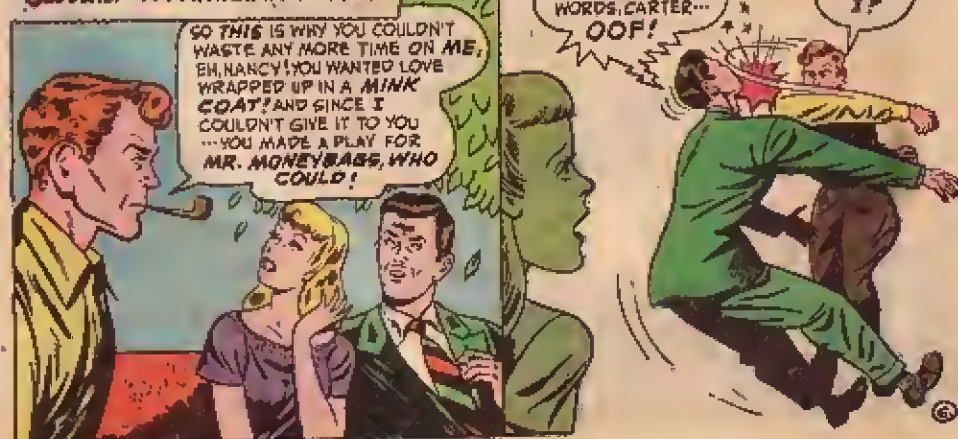
SAY "YES,"
DARLING!
PLEASE!

SUDDENLY... A FAMILIAR VOICE!"

SO THIS IS WHY YOU COULDN'T
WASTE ANY MORE TIME ON ME,
EH, NANCY! YOU WANTED LOVE
WRAPPED UP IN A MINK
COAT! AND SINCE I
COULDN'T GIVE IT TO YOU
...YOU MADE A PLAY FOR
MR. MONEYBAGS, WHO
COULD!

YOU'LL EAT THOSE
WORDS, CARTER...
OOF!

WILL
I?





I HOPE YOU'RE SATISFIED, MR. CARTER... BECAUSE YOU'LL NEVER HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE TO COME BETWEEN DWIGHT AND ME! WE'RE GOING TO BE MARRIED! SO STAY OUT OF OUR AFFAIRS!

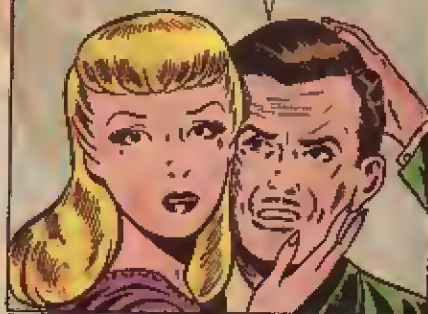
DON'T WORRY, MISS REED...

...I INTEND TO!

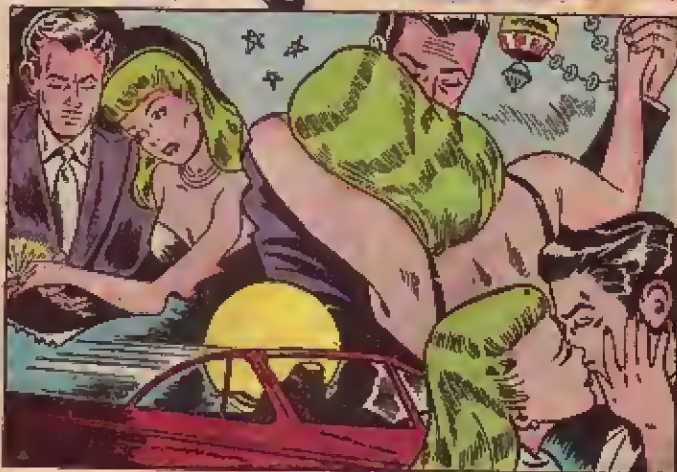


AS I WATCHED HIM GO, A SOB WELLED IN MY THROAT... AND DWIGHT'S WORDS FELL MEANINGLESSLY ON MY EARS!

I'LL MAKE CARTER PAY FOR THIS! WAIT AND SEE!



DWIGHT ANNOUNCED OUR ENGAGEMENT... AND LIFE BECAME A DIZZYING ROUND! WE WENT EVERYWHERE... DID EVERYTHING! I HAD ALL THE LUXURIES AND COMFORTS I'D ALWAYS WANTED...

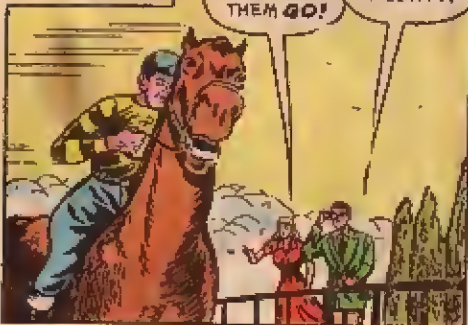


...AND YET, WHENEVER DWIGHT'S LIFE FOUND MINE, MY THOUGHTS WERE OF THE RAPTURE OF ANOTHER MAN'S KISS... AND MY HEART YEARNED FOR THE ONE THING NO AMOUNT OF MONEY COULD BUY... ROMANCE!

ONE MORNING, DWIGHT TOOK ME TO WATCH THE TIMING TRIALS FOR THE ABBOTT HANDICAP...

DWIGHT, LOOK! IT'S TIPPY... AND BUTTONS! GOLLY, LOOK AT THEM GO!

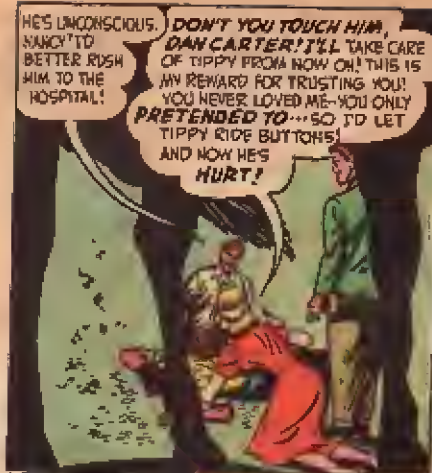
YOU'RE TELLING ME? THAT NAG'S GOT CORSAIR'S TIME BEAT BY PLENTY!



A SUDDEN STUMBLE, AND...



OHhhh!



DON'T YOU TOUCH HIM, DAN CARTER! I'LL TAKE CARE OF TIPPY FROM NOW ON! THIS IS MY REWARD FOR TRUSTING YOU! YOU NEVER LOVED ME—YOU ONLY PRETENDED TO—SO I'D LET TIPPY RIDE BUTTONS! AND NOW HE'S HURT!

BUT THE HOSPITAL, TIPPY WAS OPERATED ON—AND AFTER A SHORT CONVALESCENCE, HE WAS BURSTING TO BE 'ABOARD' HIS MOUNT AGAIN! BUT WHEN HE WAS UP AND AROUND—



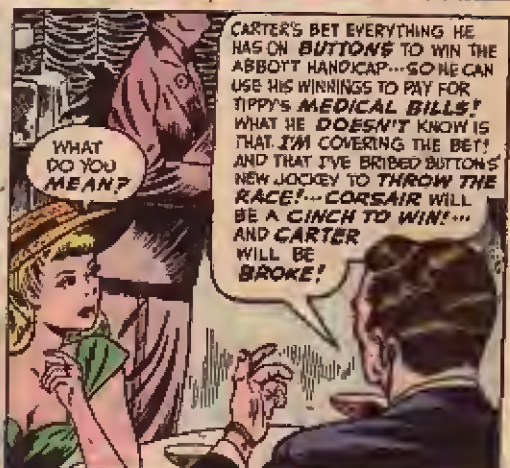
FORGET BUTTONS, TIPPY—AND DAN, TOO! WE'VE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO THINK ABOUT—THESE HOSPITAL BILLS!

"THAT NIGHT, I HAD A DATE WITH DWIGHT—"



DWIGHT, DEAR, YOU'RE DRINKING TOO MUCH!

SO WHAT? I'VE GOT A LOT TO CELEBRATE! I PROMISED TO GET EVEN WITH YOUR EX-BOY FRIEND—AND I'M GOING TO! AFTER TOMORROW, BUTTONS—AND EVERYTHING ELSE DAN CARTER OWNS—WILL BELONG TO ME!



CARTER'S BET EVERYTHING HE HAS ON BUTTONS TO WIN THE ABBOTT HANDICAP—SO HE CAN USE HIS WINNINGS TO PAY FOR TIPPY'S MEDICAL BILLS! WHAT HE DOESN'T KNOW IS THAT I'M COVERING THE BET! AND THAT I'VE BRIBED BUTTONS' NEW JOCKEY TO THROW THE RACE!—CORSAIR WILL BE A CINCER TO WIN!—AND CARTER WILL BE BROKE!



OF ALL THE LOW, CHEAP TRICKS! AND TO THINK I GAVE UP DAN FOR A TINHORN LIKE YOU! WELL, I'M WALKING OUT ON YOU, DWIGHT! WE'RE THROUGH!

OH, NO, WE'RE NOT, BABY...



DON'T CALL ME "BABY"!

BOOF!

AT LONG LAST, I
REALIZED WHAT A
FOOL I'D BEEN!
I'D TRIED TO
DENY LOVE--AND
HAD SUCCEEDED ONLY
IN DENYING MYSELF
THE ONE TRUE
HAPPINESS EVERY
GIRL CRAVES!
NOW THE ONLY
THING I WANTED
WAS LOST TO ME--
DAN'S LOVE!
BUT AT LEAST,
BUTTONS
WOULD HAVE A
FAIR CHANCE TO
WIN THE RACE
...I'D SEE TO
THAT! AND THE
NEXT DAY--"



TOWING DOWN THE STRETCH, CONSAIR
WAS AHEAD--BUT AS THEY CROSSED
THE FINISH LINE--"

**IT'S BUTTONS
BY A LENGTH!**

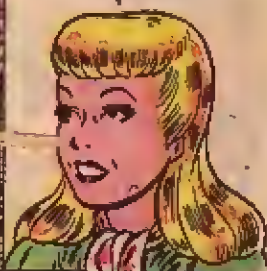


**TIPPY? HOW
DID YOU GET
HERE?**

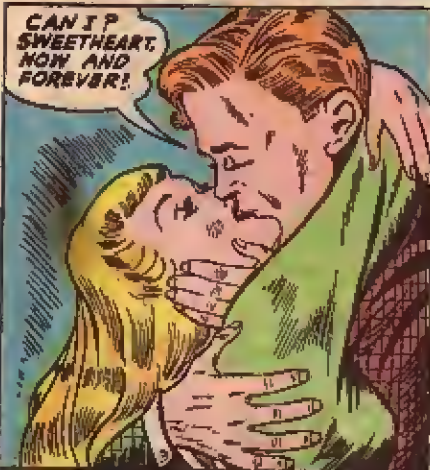


**I CAN
EXPLAIN
THAT--**

**DWIGHT BRIBED YOUR NEW
JOCKEY TO THROW THE
RACE--SO I HAD TIPPY
RIDE BUTTONS IN HIS
PLACE! ...OH, DAN, I'VE
BEEN SO WRONG ABOUT EVERY-
THING! CAN YOU EVER
FORGIVE ME?**



**CAN I P
SWEETHEART,
NOW AND
FOREVER!**



**THAT WAS FIFTEEN YEARS
AGO! I'VE BEEN MRS.
DAN CARTER EVER
SINCE--AND HAPPIER
THAN I EVER BELIEVED
A WOMAN COULD BE!**



**YOU--YOU'VE OPENED
MY EYES, MRS. CARTER!
FROM NOW ON, WHERE
DICK IS CONCERNED,
I'LL OBEY MY HEART
...INSTEAD OF MY HEAD!
...THE ANSWER'S YES,
DICK!**

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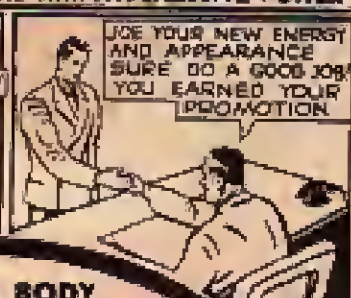
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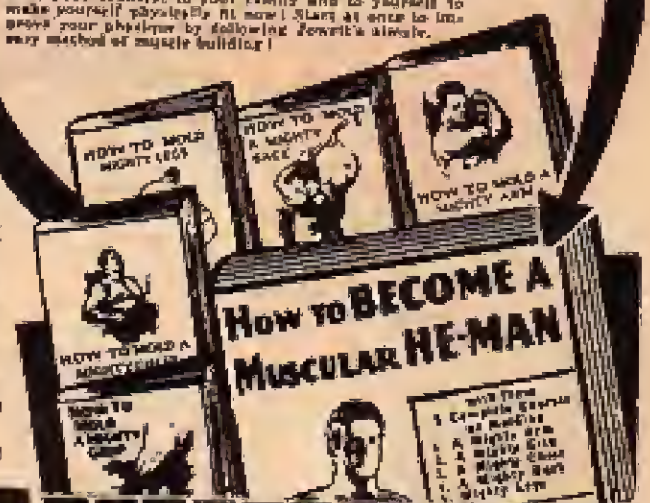


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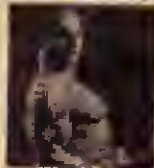


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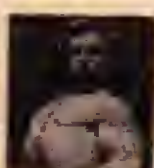
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